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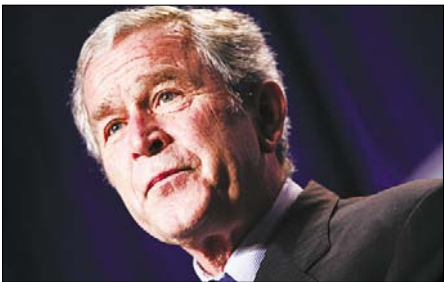
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Thursday



Bush speaks at the War College on Wednesday.

'No Debate': Bush defends record preventing terrorism | 4

Loan Rush: Low rates spur many to seek new mortgages

Good Grief: Capitals aren't satisfied with hot start | 157



WeekendPass

OMG, Guys! Elle and Bruiser Woods whirl into town with 'Legally Blonde: The Musical.'

>> **INSIDE**



Obama Taps Salazar to Head Interior



CABINET PICKS: President-elect Barack Obama introduces Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar on Wednesday as his nominee to head the Interior Department. Obama also tapped Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack to be secretary of agriculture, and sources say GOP Rep. Ray Hood will be named as transportation secretary.

Chrysler to Halt Production

Auto giant announces it will shut all of its plants for 1 month

Chrysler announced Wednesday that it will close all 30 of its auto manufacturing plants for at least a month starting at the end of shifts on Friday as it tries to conserve cash and avoid bankruptcy amid plunging demand for its vehicles.

The company, the third-largest U.S. automaker, said in a statement that it is taking the action to bring its inventories more into line with reduced U.S. demand for new

cars and trucks. It blamed its current difficulties largely on customers' inability to obtain financing to purchase new vehicles and said tight credit markets were discouraging would-be buyers.

Chrysler said manufacturing operations would resume at the earliest on Jan. 19. Two factories in Toledo, Ohio, that make the Jeep Liberty, Jeep Wrangler and Dodge Nitro will be closed until Jan. 26, the company said.

A minivan plant in Canada and a plant in Detroit that makes the Dodge Viper will remain shut until Feb. 2, Chrysler spokeswoman Shawn Morgan said.

The move essentially extends a traditional two-week shutdown period over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The two biggest U.S. automakers — General Motors and Ford — have also said they are extending their holiday shutdowns. Chrysler's decision follows a 47 percent drop in U.S. sales in November.

WILLIAM BRANIGAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)



IF YOU WERE SEVERELY DISFIGURED, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO UNDERGO A FACE TRANSPLANT? **A** YES **B** NO



THURSDAY
48 | 36



FRIDAY
48 | 40



SATURDAY
46 | 28

TO CAST YOUR VOTE, VISIT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT **A** FOR 'YES' OR **B** FOR 'NO' TO 98999. FOR WEDNESDAY'S POLL RESULTS, SEE PAGE 28

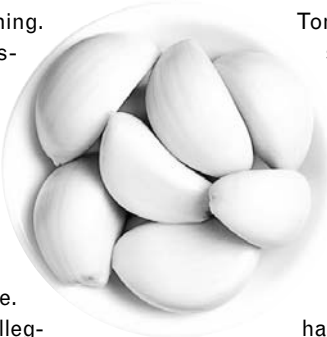
TODAY: Partly cloudy and mild temperatures; a late-night shower | 30

eyeOpeners

UNIVERSAL TRUTHS

Perhaps Laughter Is A Stronger Weapon

A San Antonio fast-food restaurant cashier laughed at a robbery suspect and told him to get a job if he wanted money during a failed hold-up on Tuesday evening. Police said the suspect approached the worker and demanded money, but the cashier laughed and apparently didn't realize the man was trying to hold up the place. The suspect then allegedly pulled out a box cutter and demanded the cashier's wallet. The employee complied but had no money in his billfold. The suspect fled but was caught by police who responded to the robbery call. (AP)



WINTER

Garlic Tread

Slush has never smelled so spicy. City crews in the Des Moines, Iowa, suburb of Ankeny are using garlic salt to melt snow and ice on streets from Tuesday's storm. The salt was donated by Tone Brothers Inc., a top spice producer headquartered in Ankeny. Public Works Administrator Al Olson said the company donated 18,000 pounds of garlic salt to use on its 400 miles of roads. Olson doesn't have details, but he said the salt would have ended up in a landfill, so the company donated it. Olson said the city mixed the garlic salt with regular road salt and it works fine. He doesn't recommend it to spice up lunch or dinner. (AP)



CHRISTMAS

Fat(her) Christmas

Hey, everyone, it's important to get regular physicals. See, even Santa Claus wants you to! Physician Jane Sadler declared Santa fit for his Christmas duties after she administered his physical at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, on Tuesday. Santa's blood pressure and dental health were satisfactory, but he was judged obese with a BMI of 32 and told to lay off the milk and cookies. Sadler recommended that children leave Santa fruit, vegetables and nuts this year instead of the traditional sweets. (EXPRESS)

CRIME

Cash, Forklifted Over

Police in Beaumont, Texas, arrested a suspect on Tuesday in an ATM theft in which a forklift apparently was used

to put the electronic money dispenser into a truck. Police responded before dawn to an alarm at a Wells Fargo branch. They discovered an exterior ATM was gone and the forklift nearby, with its motor running. A white truck

had been seen near the bank as officers responded to the alarm. Police later spotted the vehicle and detained the 42-year-old Houston man who was driving. Police are trying to figure out where he got the forklift. (AP)

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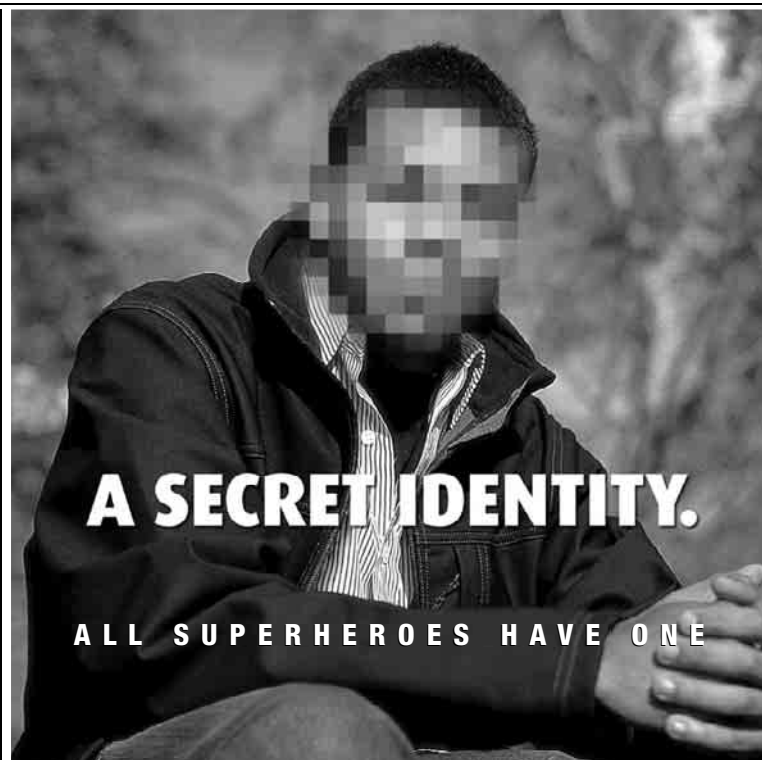
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EIGHT IS NOT ENOUGH: They say time flies. Well, 2009 is already here — but it arrived by sea. A 500-pound, 7-foot-tall numeral 9 arrived at a Manhattan dock Wednesday to be used in the 2009 sign that will ring in the new year during the celebration in Times Square.

Nation

In Brief



Marilyn Walker and Frank Lindh want a commutation for John Walker Lindh.

SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. Taliban Fighter's Family Asks Bush to Set Him Free

The parents of American-born Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh on Wednesday pleaded with President Bush to set their son free before he leaves office next month. Lindh was sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty in 2002 to serving in the Taliban army. Lindh's mother, Marilyn Walker, asked the president to show mercy by commuting her son's sentence. "John made a mistake in joining the Taliban," she said. (AP)

PAW PAW, MICH.

Police Baffled by Heart Discovered in Car Wash

A human-sized heart found at a southwestern Michigan car wash has investigators wondering whether it came from a person or an animal. The organ was discovered in a corner of a manual wash bay at Soapy's Car Wash in Paw Paw, Mich. Police Chief Patrick W. Alspaugh took the organ Tuesday for forensic examination. "If it's a human heart, that prompts the question, 'Then where's the body?'" Alspaugh said. (AP)

HEARSAY | POLITICS

"I just wanted to say — as some of you may have heard — I would be honored to be considered for ... U.S. senator."

—CAROLINE KENNEDY, PUBLICLY CONFIRMING FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT SHE WANTS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE SENATE SEAT BEING VACATED BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON.

III. Governor Mounts His Defense

State's supreme court rejects request to oust Blagojevich from office

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. | The Illinois Supreme Court on Wednesday denied an effort to remove Gov. Rod Blagojevich, rejecting what could have been the quickest way to force the Democrat from office.

The ruling came as the governor's attorney challenged the strength of the corruption case against Blagojevich before a panel

of lawmakers that is considering whether to recommend impeachment.

Attorney Ed Genson said the wiretaps that ensnared Blagojevich amounted to talk and no action.

"It's just people jabbering," Genson told the House panel.

Genson attacked the impeachment proceedings Wednesday, assailing the wiretaps, questioning the committee's impartiality and complaining that the panel had not given the governor enough time to mount a defense.



Blagojevich

The committee's Democratic chairwoman, Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie, rejected Genson's requests. "We're not a court of law," Currie said.

"We're not bound by specific rules of evidence."

Blagojevich has been under siege since his arrest last week on charges that he tried to auction off Barack Obama's Senate seat. But he got

some good news when the state's highest court refused to hear the attorney general's legal challenge to his fitness to serve.

Blagojevich had already started the day feeling upbeat, telling reporters before a morning run that he had confidence in Genson and that he was eager to defend himself.

"I can't wait to begin to tell my side of the story and to address you guys and, most importantly, the people of Illinois. That's who I'm dying to talk to." (AP)

DRESBACH, MINN. | ONE-TRACK BIND



TWISTED METAL: The remnants of two Canadian-Pacific trains are seen outside Dresbach, Minn., on Wednesday. The trains collided at about 5:30 a.m. on the same track, derailing 40 cars and sending an engine and some railcars plunging into the Mississippi River. No serious injuries were reported. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Poll: Pets Make the Connection

Majority of pet owners claim they understand what their animal says

WASHINGTON | When your dog says, "Woof," you hear an eager, "Let's take a walk." And your cat has a certain entitled meow that you know means, "More food — now!"

You are not alone.

Sixty-seven percent of pet owners say they understand their ani-

mals' barks, purrs and other sounds, according to an Associated Press poll released on Wednesday. In a finding many parents of teenagers might envy, 62 percent of owners say that when they speak, their pets get the message.

William Miller, a professor of veterinary medicine and medical director of Cornell University's Companion Animal Hospital, says animals and people learn to communicate over time by associating certain sounds with actions.

"It's not like you'll sit down and have a U.N. conversation with them" spoken in different languages, Miller said. (AP)

NASA Space Shuttles Up for Grabs

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. | NASA's soon-to-be-retired space shuttles are up for grabs.

The space agency said Wednesday it's looking for ideas on where and how best to display its space shuttles once they stop flying in a few years. It's put out a call to schools, science museums and

"other appropriate organizations" that might be interested in showcasing one of the three remaining shuttles.

Beware: NASA estimates it will cost about \$42 million to get each shuttle ready and get it where it needs to go, and the final tab could end up being much more.

"The orbiters will not be disassembled for transportation or storage," NASA insists in its nine-page request for information.

One space shuttle appears headed to the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington. The remaining two would be placed in storage at Kennedy Space Center until their final homes are decided. (AP)

43

The percentage of people in the survey who said they would buy holiday gifts for their pets this year.

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Nation

Bush: 'No Debate' He Kept U.S. Safe

President defends his
record and legacy in
speech at war college

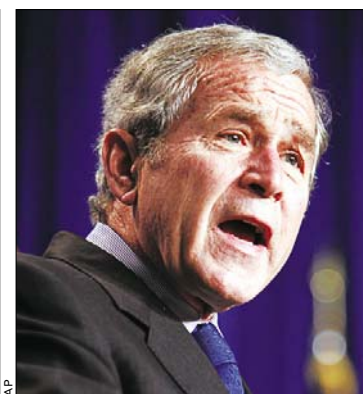
CARLISLE, PA. | President Bush, ever focused on his legacy, said Wednesday "there can be no debate" about his record of preventing another terrorist attack.

Evoking harrowing memories of Sept. 11, 2001, Bush said virtually no one could have predicted then that the country would not be hit again for the rest of his presidency.

"It's not a matter of luck," Bush said.

Addressing a military audience at the U.S. Army War College, Bush sought to shape how he will be remembered after Barack Obama succeeds him on Jan. 20. Bush held little back in depicting his two terms as a time of transformational change, saying the world has "more people living in liberty than at any other time in human history."

"While there's room for an honest and healthy debate about the decisions I made, ... there can be no



President Bush speaks Wednesday at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

debate about the results in keeping America safe," Bush said.

Bush defended the war in Iraq in the context of Sept. 11. He said the U.S. could not tolerate a Saddam Hussein-led Iraq, a "dangerous force in the heart of the Middle East."

The president even made a rare mention of Osama bin Laden.

"We have delivered a devastating blow to al-Qaeda in the land Osama bin Laden once called the central battleground in the war on terror." BEN FELLER (AP)

FRANKTON, IND. | CLOSE CALL



SLIPPERY SLOPES: A firefighter works the scene of an accident Wednesday in which a school bus full of students collided with a car on an icy road. Only minor injuries were reported. The crash was one of several statewide in a rash of icy weather accidents that have caused at least five deaths.

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Spain, 750ml **\$8⁴⁷**
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Beringer-Cab "Knights Valley"	16.97	Ecco Domani-Pinot Grigio	8.97	Kendall Jackson-Cab, Mer, PN	15.97
Beringer-Wt Zin, Vt Merlot	4.77	Edna Valley-Chardonnay	10.97	Kendall Jackson-Sauv Blanc	8.97
Bogle-Cab, Zin, Vt, Petite Sirah	8.97	Estancia-Cabernet	10.97	Kim Crawford-Sauvignon	14.97
Bogle-Merlot, Chard	6.79	Fetzer-Gewurztraminer	6.79	La Crema-Chard Sonoma Coast	15.97
BV Coastal-Cab, Chard, Merlot	7.97	Fetzer-Villy Oaks-Chard, Cab, Mer	6.47	Liberty School-Cab Paso Robles	11.97
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Beringer-White Zin, White Merlot	8.77	Carlo Rossi-Chard, Cab, Merlot 5L Box	11.99
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Natural Light, Natural Ice 24pk	11.49	Killian's Irish Red	12.99	Yuengling-Lager-24pk	16.99
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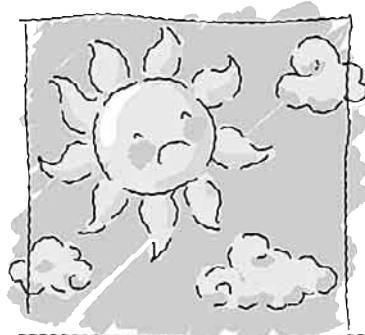


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Nation

25

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Woman Jailed Over Scarf

Muslim released from Ga. prison after group seeks a federal probe

ATLANTA | A Muslim woman arrested for refusing to take off her head scarf at a courthouse security checkpoint said Wednesday that she felt her human and civil rights were violated.

A judge ordered Lisa Valentine, 40, to serve 10 days in jail for contempt of court, said police in Douglasville, a city of about 20,000 people on Atlanta's west suburban outskirts.

Valentine violated a court policy that prohibits people from wearing any headgear in court, police said after they arrested her Tuesday.

Kelley Jackson, a spokeswoman for Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker, said state law doesn't permit or prohibit head scarfs. "It's at the discretion of the judge and the sheriffs and is up to the security officers in the courthouse to enforce their decision," she said.

Valentine said the incident reminded her of stories she'd heard of the civil rights-era South.

"I just felt stripped of my civil, my human rights," she said Wednesday.



Omar Hall hugs his wife, Lisa Valentine, on Wednesday. A judge ordered Valentine, a Muslim, Tuesday to serve 10 days in jail for refusing to take off her head scarf.

"I just felt stripped of my civil, my human rights."

LISA VALENTINE

day from her home. She said she was unexpectedly released after the Council on American-Islamic Relations urged federal authorities to investigate the incident and others in Georgia.

Jail officials declined to say why

she was freed, and municipal Court Judge Keith Rollins said "it would not be appropriate" for him to comment on the case.

Last year, a judge in Valdosta, Ga., barred a Muslim woman from entering a courtroom because she would not remove her head scarf.

There have been similar cases in other states, including Michigan, where a Muslim woman filed a federal lawsuit in February 2007 after a judge dismissed her small-claims court case when she refused to remove a head and face veil. (AP)

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World



PANDA DIPLOMACY: China said Wednesday it will send Taiwan a pair of pandas next week, in the latest sign of warming ties between the two rivals. The 4-year-old pandas are named Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, which, when linked, mean "reunion" in Chinese.

In Brief

BEIJING China Resumes Blocking Access to Foreign Web Sites

With the glare of the Olympic spotlight gone, China has resumed blocking access to the Web sites of some foreign media, reversing itself on earlier promises to expand press freedom as part of its bid to win the games, human rights groups and press advocates said Wednesday. The Chinese-language Web sites of the British Broadcasting Corp. and Voice of America are among the sites that have been inaccessible since early December, said the group Reporters Without Borders. (AP)

NAIROBI, KENYA Somali President Defends His Attempt to Fire PM

Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf on Wednesday defended his efforts to fire the country's prime minister, while lawmakers said they would seek to impeach the president. Yusuf unilaterally fired Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein this week after months of public feuds over the best way to bring peace in Somalia, but parliament rejected Yusuf's decision and voted to keep the prime minister. (AP)



Yusuf

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General: Human Rights Threatened in 2008

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon criticized the governments of Myanmar and Zimbabwe Wednesday and said a year of multiple crises has put human rights on trial. At a year-end news conference, the U.N. chief said 2009 "promises to be no less difficult" than 2008, with a worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the danger of anarchy in Somalia, a continuing global financial crisis and the need to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. (AP)



Ban



A woman and two children walk through the wreckage from two explosions in Baghdad's Nahdha district on Wednesday.

U.K. to Leave Iraq in May

Double bombing kills 18; Brown announces British troops' exit date

BAGHDAD | Britain's prime minister announced Wednesday that his country's soldiers will leave Iraq by the end of May, a move that will force the U.S. to send troops into the Shiite south to secure supply lines to the much larger American force.

Britain, with about 4,000 troops currently in Iraq, is the second-largest contributor to the international military coalition after the

United States.

But the war has been unpopular in Britain, and the end of the mission could be a political boon to Prime Minister Gordon Brown if he calls a national election for June 4.

Britain had previously said the mission would conclude in the early summer, and Brown's statement appeared to accelerate that timetable.

Although security in Iraq has improved markedly in recent months, a double bombing in Baghdad during Brown's visit highlighted the violent passions that persist.

Police said 18 people were killed

and 52 were wounded when a car bomb exploded in eastern Baghdad and a roadside bomb went off minutes later as police rushed to the scene. The U.S. military reported nine killed and 43 wounded; conflicting casualty tolls are common in Iraqi bombings.

Late Wednesday, a bomb exploded moments after a U.S. military patrol passed by in the mostly Sunni Baghdad neighborhood of Sulaikh, killing a 13-year-old boy and wounding three other people, an Iraqi military officer at the scene said on condition of anonymity.

JIM HEINTZ (AP)

Anti-Piracy Force Foils Hijacking

Criminals abandon Chinese vessel after assault near Somalia

SAN'A, YEMEN | An international anti-piracy force thwarted the attempted takeover of a Chinese cargo ship off the Somali coast on Wednesday, sending in attack helicopters that fired on the bandits and forced them to abandon the ship they had boarded.

In another blow to the region's thriving piracy trade, the Indian navy handed over 23 pirates it caught at sea to authorities in Yemen.

In Wednesday's assault, nine pirates armed with guns overtook the Chinese ship with speedboats and boarded the vessel, said Noel Choong, who heads the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

He said the 30-member crew sent a distress message to the bureau as it saw the pirates approaching, then barricaded themselves inside their living quarters. Choong said the bureau quickly alerted the international naval force, which dispatched helicopters and a warship.

"Two helicopters arrived at the scene first and helped deter the hijacking. They fired at the pirates, forcing them to flee the ship," he said. There were no injuries during the five-hour ordeal. AHMED AL-HAJ (AP)

Turmoil Erupts in Iraq's Parliament

Speaker threatens to resign amid chaos over reporter's jailing

BAGHDAD | Chaos erupted in Iraq's parliament Wednesday over the jailing of a reporter who threw his shoes at President Bush, with lawmakers loyal to a radical anti-American cleric demanding his release. The parliament speaker responded by threatening to resign.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi, a correspondent for an Iraqi-owned television station based in Cairo, Egypt, had been expected to appear Wednesday before an investigative judge at Iraq's main court as a first step in a complex legal process that could end in a criminal trial.

Instead, the judge visited him in his jail cell and the family was told to return to the court in eight days, according to the journalist's brother, Dhargham al-Zeidi.



Students protest to support Iraqi Muntadhar al-Zeidi in Karachi, Pakistan.

Al-Zeidi's act of defiance won the obscure television reporter hero status in Iraq and throughout the Muslim world, much of which holds Bush personally responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqis since the invasion.

In Iraq, followers of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, and other Shiite and Sunni groups, have staged demonstrations demanding al-Zeidi's release.

In Pakistan, protesters held a vigil outside the U.S. Consulate in Lahore Wednesday, carrying photos of al-Zeidi. ROBERT H. REID (AP)

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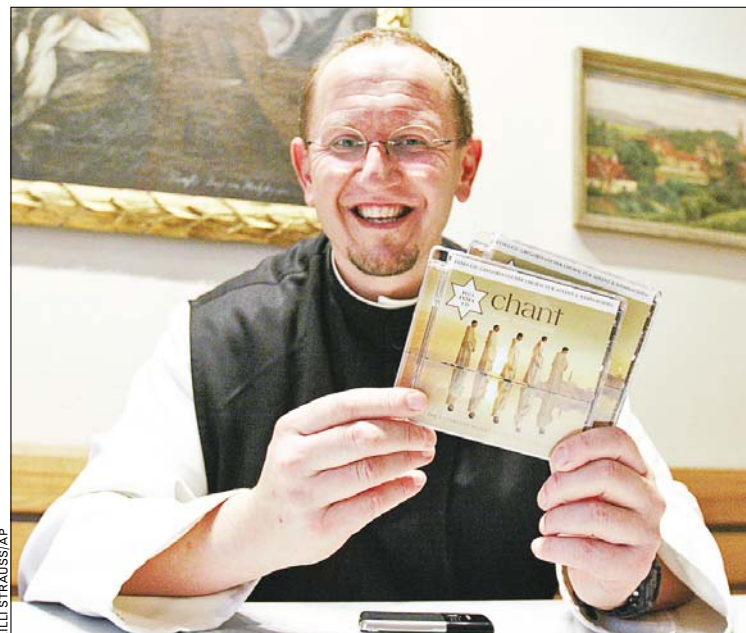


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World



A monk at Austria's Heiligenkreuz Abbey holds copies of the "Chant" CD that the group released in May. The album made it to No. 7 on the British pop music charts.

Austrian Monks Chant Way to Top

Group's debut album of Gregorian prayers is best-seller in Europe

HEILIGENKREUZ, AUSTRIA | Working to reach No. 1 on the charts? Try praying.

That's how the monks of Heiligenkreuz Abbey found fame. Their compilation of Gregorian chants, a form of sung prayer, has stormed pop music charts worldwide.

The debut CD, "Chant: Music for Paradise," was first released in Europe in May and spent 15 weeks at No. 1 on Britain's classical charts. The album made it to No. 7 on the country's pop charts.

It was also the top classical album in the United States and Canada, where it was released as "Chant: Music for the Soul." It led the pop charts in Belgium and Poland, and reached No. 1 on the album charts in Austria. A special edition was recently released that includes chants sung during the Christmas season.

"I get the sense this music is able to fill a vacuum within a lot of people," said the Rev. Karl Wallner, one of the Cistercian abbey's 74 monks. "It has a basic melody that obviously

speaks to people in this world who suffer from stress, aggression, lack of confidence."

As a result of the CD's success, the 875-year-old abbey, located in a sleepy hamlet about half an hour's drive from the Austrian capital, is drawing more visitors.

I get the sense
this music is able to fill a vacuum within a lot of people."

KARL WALLNER, MONK

It was already a popular tourist attraction before the CD release, and fans are now sending e-mails saying the album helped them through hard times or changed their lives. Reservation requests at the monastery's modest guest house have shot up.

The abbey came to the attention of Universal last February, when the monks followed the suggestion of a friend to submit their music to the company. Within weeks, the Cistercian singers had a recording deal.

VERONIKA OLEKSYN (AP)



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The number of parakeets Berlin officials rescued from a two-room apartment on Tuesday. City veterinarian Margit Platzer says it took her team more than seven hours to catch all the birds with nets. The birds were taken Wednesday to shelters in Berlin and other cities.

World

INDIA | VOTERS HEAD TO THE POLLS



LONG WAIT: Kashmiri Muslims line up to vote in Veeri, India, on Wednesday. Voters headed to the polls in dozens of towns in Indian Kashmir during state elections, which are being held in seven phases through Dec. 24. Separatists boycotted the vote, saying it will tighten India's hold on the region.

Putin Backs Treason Bill

Activists warn new law would effectively outlaw Kremlin critics

MOSCOW | Under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, people who fraternized with foreigners or criticized the Kremlin were "enemies of the people" and sent to the gulag. Now there's new legislation backed by Vladimir Putin's government that human rights activists say could throw Russia back to the days of the Great Terror.

The legislation, outspoken government critic and rights activist Lev Ponomarev charged Wednesday, creates "a base for a totalitarian state."

Government supporters and Kremlin-allied lawmakers said the bill — submitted to the Kremlin-

The bill would add nongovernmental organizations to the list of banned recipients of state secrets.

friendly parliament last week — will tighten up current law. Supporters say prosecutors often have trouble gaining convictions because of ambiguities in the definition of state treason.

The bill would add nongovernmental organizations based anywhere in the world that have an office in Russia to the list of banned recipients of state secrets. The gov-

ernment has repeatedly accused foreign spy agencies of using NGOs as a cover to foment dissent.

Critics warned the loose wording will give authorities ample leeway to prosecute those who cooperate with international rights groups.

The legislation expands the definition of treason to include damaging Russia's "constitutional order," and "sovereignty or territorial integrity."

Human rights activists believe each proposed addition cynically targets potential threats to the Kremlin, shattering what remains of civil society in Russia. Activists said expanding the term "constitutional order" would effectively outlaw opposition protests. "Territorial integrity" would forbid anyone from calling for independence or perhaps autonomy. **DAVID NOWAK (AP)**

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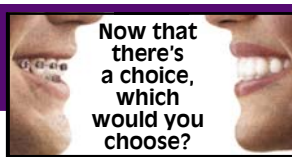
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Money



The Federal Reserve cut a key interest rate to near zero on Tuesday, resulting in lower mortgage rates across the country for borrowers with good credit histories.

Fed Rate Cut Has People Cashing In

Homeowners rush to lock in rock-bottom interest rates on loans

REAL ESTATE | Tony Jabon had an e-mail in to his mortgage broker by 10 a.m.

The environmental consultant in Charlotte, N.C., had heard about the Federal Reserve's decision to cut its key interest rate to nearly zero and wanted to refinance to something lower than 5.5 percent.

Within hours, he had locked in a rate of about 4.6 percent. He'll save about \$160 on his monthly payment. "Any time you can save a dollar," he said, "why not?"

Homeowners across the country did the same Wednesday. Mortgage brokers reported a surge of calls from borrowers seeking to take advantage of the Fed's extraordinary decision. Some brokers were quoting mortgage rates of close to 4.5 percent for people with strong credit and hefty down payments.

The national average rate on 30-year, fixed mortgages was 5.06 percent on Wednesday, according to financial publisher HSH Associates — the lowest since the 1960s and

down from 5.3 percent Tuesday.

"This is beautiful — oh, my gosh!" said Patti Mazzara, a mortgage broker in the Minneapolis suburb of Edina. "This is a whole new game now."

The Fed, aiming to free up lending, cut the federal funds rate Tuesday from 1 percent to a target range of 0 to 0.25 percent.

Mortgage brokers reported a surge of calls from clients on Wednesday.

It was the best news in months for anyone looking to lock in a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage. But it was not expected to be a cure-all, and borrowers already in danger of foreclosure probably won't be able to take advantage of it.

"It's a call to action for homeowners looking to get out of adjustable-rate mortgages," said Greg McBride, financial analyst at Bankrate.com. "Unfortunately, it's not an equal-opportunity party."

ALAN ZIBEL (AP)



E-L-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin will sing and Yo-Yo Ma will play the cello at President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration. Violinist Itzhak Perlman, pianist Gabriela Montero and clarinetist Anthony McGill will join Ma for a new work composed by John Williams.

Local

In Brief



Minnet, left, and Jasmine Bowman were found dead in their mother's Md. freezer.

LUSBY, MD.

Report: Asphyxiation Killed 2 Girls Found in Freezer

The two girls found in September in a freezer in their mother's home in Calvert County died from asphyxiation, according to a ruling by the Maryland medical examiner's office, authorities said Wednesday. The girls' mother, Renee Bowman, has told investigators that one of the girls died of starvation and the other died after a fall, law enforcement sources have said. Investigators think the bodies probably were in the freezer for at least a year as Bowman, 43, moved from Montgomery County to Charles County to Calvert.

AARON C. DAVIS (THE WASHINGTON POST)

RICHMOND, VA.

Va. to Cut at Least 2,600 Jobs, Slash State Spending

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, a Democrat, announced Wednesday that he will make deep cuts to core government services, including education and public safety, and reduce the state's work force by thousands to address a \$3 billion budget shortfall. The state will lay off about 1,100 workers from agencies across the state, primarily in health and public safety. In addition, the Department of Transportation will cut 1,500 to 1,700 employees. ANITA KUMAR AND TIM CRAIG (THE WASHINGTON POST)

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Md. Approves Voting Contract For 2009 Municipal Elections

Maryland has taken action to ensure the availability of voting machines for municipal elections scheduled for next year in some cities. The Board of Public Works approved a contract with Premier Election Solutions Inc. of Allen, Texas, to provide touchscreen voting machines at a cost of \$974,000. (AP)

Father Acquitted in Toddler's Death

Judge says man has suffered enough for leaving boy in hot car

A Loudoun County man whose adopted toddler died after being left in a SUV in the hot sun was acquitted Wednesday morning of involuntary manslaughter by a Fairfax County judge who said "no prison term is going to cause more pain than that which he has already suffered."

Miles Harrison, 49, collapsed

to his knees moments after Fairfax Circuit Court Judge R. Terrence Ney declared that Harrison's conduct did not meet the legal standard for manslaughter. Ney noted that Harrison was, prior to July 8, an unquestionably devoted father to Chase Harrison, the 21-month-old Russian boy he and his wife had adopted just three months earlier.

"The only true atonement here can only take place within his heart and soul," Ney said, "and he's very fortunate that he's been supported by such a strong and loving family,

friends, co-workers and neighbors."

The standard under Virginia law for involuntary manslaughter is "negligence so gross, wanton and culpable as to show a callous disregard for human life."

"The court does not find beyond a reasonable doubt that the elements of involuntary manslaughter have been met. For this reason, the defendant

is found not guilty," Ney concluded. Harrison declined to comment after the verdict.

On Tuesday, Harrison testified that he forgot to stop at a day care center in Ashburn and drop off Chase while driving from his home in Purcellville to his office in Herndon last July. Once he arrived at work, Harrison went straight inside without glancing at the back seat. Chase spent nine hours inside Harrison's GMC Yukon on a 90-degree day and died of heatstroke.

TOM JACKMAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)



Harrison

WASHINGTON | SEX WORKERS RALLY FOR MORE RIGHTS



STREET WALKERS: A pedestrian, left, passes by a group of sex workers who were waiting for the light to change at 14th Street NW and New York Avenue on their way to the Justice Department. A sex workers from across the country gathered with the Sex Workers Outreach Project for a rally and march to promote more sympathetic laws for their profession.

Man Dies After Being Hit by Train

Metro officials: He put himself in train's path at Shady Grove

A man was fatally injured Thursday morning after putting himself in the path of an oncoming Metro-rail train at the Shady Grove Metro station, Metro officials said.

Red Line service was disrupted for about two hours after the incident, with trains traveling in both directions forced to share a single track.

The train was headed to Glenmont when it hit the man at about 9:50 a.m., officials said. In a news release, Metro said the man "intentionally placed himself" on the tracks.

About 20 minutes after the man was struck, rescue crews pulled him, alive, from underneath the train and took him to a hospital. He later died of his injuries.

Trains shared a single track between the Shady Grove, Rockville and Twinbrook Metro stations, causing delays.

Metro transported more than 350 passengers among those stations on shuttle buses before restoring normal service shortly after noon Wednesday. LENA SUN AND DEBBI WILGOREN

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 17

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	7-8-4
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	8-3-2
Mid-day DC 4	7-0-3-9
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	2-4-3-8
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	10-12-13-14-31
Daily 6 (Wed.)	14-20-24-25-29-33 Bonus: 16
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	5-19-21-32-37 (5)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	1-4-3
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	3-7-4
Mid-day Pick 4	2-9-2-1
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	3-5-0-4
Match 5 (Wed.)	7-11-15-29-36 Bonus: 2
Lotto (Wed.)	8-10-17-18-25-26

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	4-2-1
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-7-9
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	1-2-7-5

Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	4-2-5-5
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	1-6-17-27-30
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	7-9-11-14-29
Win for Life (Wed.)	5-9-13-23-24-32

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	14-26-28-31-40 (13)
Power Play	2X

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Sports

10

The number of career Pro Bowl selections for Kansas City Chiefs TE Tony Gonzalez, a record at the position. Although playing for a 2-12 team, Gonzalez has amassed 84 receptions, 941 yards and eight touchdowns, all of which lead the league for tight ends.



After Sunday's loss to the 2-11-1 Bengals, Redskins head coach Jim Zorn, left, said he felt like "the worst coach in America."

'Worst Coach' Doing Fine

Redskins' Jim Zorn reassures friends after doomsday comment

REDSKINS | Tell the world that you feel like "the worst coach in America" and people will pay attention.

So much so that Jim Zorn spent the next day or so assuring people — players, fans, close friends — that he really hadn't gone off the deep end.

"Lots of people saying, 'Keep your head up, Coach,'" the Washing-

ton Redskins coach said. "Well, my head wasn't down. ... I had to assure everybody, 'Hey, I'm OK.'"

Two days after his proclamation, uttered out of sheer frustration over the team's 1-5 slide, Zorn and the Redskins returned to the practice field Wednesday. The coach was back to his usual chipper self, a far cry from the worn-out, aging-before-your-eyes look he had Monday in the wake of the embarrassing 20-13 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals.

"I've got a lot of energy left," Zorn

said. "I didn't just gear up to coach two final games. I'm gearing up, hopefully, every year to coach in the playoffs as well."

Not this year, though. The Redskins (7-7) are barely alive mathematically headed into this week's game against the Philadelphia Eagles, a pickle that prompted Zorn to give the players an extra day off to do some self-examination of his performance as a coach.

Anyone expecting radical changes from the inquest will be disappointed. Zorn said his extra

time with the assistants was spent reviewing plays with a more critical eye, but there apparently will not be no significant changes in the practice schedule, the lineup, the coach's West Coast offense scheme or anything else.

“My head wasn't down. ... I had to assure everybody, 'Hey, I'm OK.'”

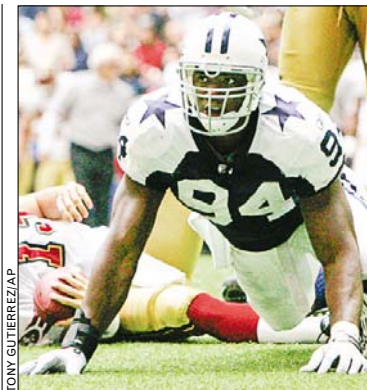
JIM ZORN, REDSKINS HEAD COACH

"What I tried to do is slow things down, and we just took time to talk about where we were at as coaches and what we could do better," Zorn said. "Some of the things we came up were very simple because we don't have time to revamp anything. Nor should we, because we really are going in the right direction."

Zorn organized himself during his introspection by making a list, something a bit out of character for a coach who always seems to have all the answers easily accessible off the top of his head.

"I'm not necessarily a list guy," Zorn said. "My bride of 29 years has helped me to make lists. I don't want to brood on what I might be forgetting, so as you make lists you can talk those things through."

"We all know that Z's not the worst coach in America," guard Pete Kendall said. "Coaching's part of it, but playing's part of it as well, and we need to correct the playing part of it." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)



Ware's 19 sacks are the most in the NFL since Michael Strahan's 22½ in 2001.

Cowboys, Ware Have Dual Focus

Defensive lineman and team seek a playoff berth, NFL sack record

NFL | Two goals remain for the Dallas Cowboys: Getting into the playoffs and getting DeMarcus Ware the NFL sack record. Both are within reach.

The Cowboys can lock up a wild-card berth by winning their last two games. They might still make it with a split, but they're guaranteed to play in January by beating Baltimore at home on Saturday night, and then winning at Philadelphia in the finale.

For all of Dallas' offensive stars, the team's best chance of winning seems to be the defense's continuing its recent roll. Consider these feats: five straight games without allowing a 100-yard rusher, four straight games with at least four sacks and only one touchdown allowed over the last three games.

"I think we're getting to the point now to where we got to do it every week," Ware said.

The Cowboys have been sack-happy lately. They had seven against Seattle a few weeks ago, then took down Eli Manning eight times in a victory over the New York Giants on Sunday night. Their season total is up to an NFL-best 53.

Ware has 19, which is already the most in the NFL since Michael Strahan set the record with 22½ in 2001. JAIME ARON (AP)

Fletcher Vents Over Pro Bowl Snub

Redskins linebacker says he is 'the Susan Lucci of the NFL'

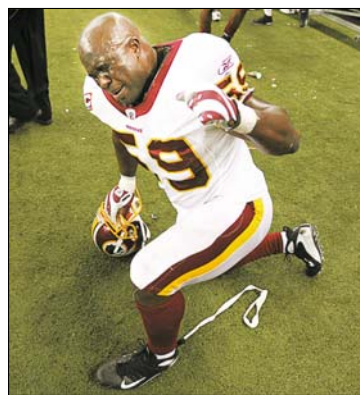
REDSKINS | Indignant over another Pro Bowl snub, Washington Redskins middle linebacker London Fletcher stepped out of character Wednesday and vented his frustration, calling himself "the Susan Lucci of the NFL" and deeming his career "Hall of Fame worthy."

Fletcher is the leading tackler in the NFL this decade and has

never missed a game in his 11-year career, even persevering through a severely sprained foot earlier this season.

He is widely considered the MVP this season of the Redskins, the anchor to a defense ranked fourth in the league, but it is rare to hear him brag about himself or stray from the politically correct party line when addressing reporters.

"My career has been Hall of Fame-worthy," Fletcher said. "But some coaches and some players get caught up in the hype."



Linebacker London Fletcher has never been voted as a starter for the Pro Bowl.

Though solid throughout his career, Fletcher has never been able to place himself among his position's elite.

San Francisco's Patrick Willis and Carolina's Jon Beason were the NFC selections for inside linebacker this year in voting among fans, coaches and players, and it would be hard to argue with either choice.

"I understand they can take only two middle linebackers, but to have it happen year after year after year after year after year. I'm an eight-time alternate. I'm the Susan Lucci of the NFL," said Fletcher.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)



OLYMPIC COMPETITION: CBS Corp. and Time Warner Inc. executives have discussed joining forces to bid on rights to televise the Olympics in 2014 and 2016, turning that competition into an even greater clash of media titans. NBC, Fox and ABC-ESPN have all said they expect to bid on the U.S. rights to the games.

Sports

Williams May Make Another Move

Ex-Redskins assistant could leave Jaguars after a subpar season

NFL | Jacksonville's defense got steady pressure, some key stops and a critical turnover in the final minute against Green Bay.

It was the kind of performance, and result, the Jaguars expected all season under defensive coordinator Gregg Williams. Now, with the defenders finally getting comfortable in Williams' blitz-heavy scheme, they might have to start over.

Williams, a former head coach in Buffalo and coach-in-waiting in Washington, signed a one-year contract with Jacksonville in the offseason and could be in his final two weeks with the Jaguars (5-9), who play the Indianapolis Colts Thursday.

Coach Jack Del Rio denied a report that Williams already has told the club he would not be back for another season, but stopped short of saying he would like to have him stay



Jaguars head coach Jack Del Rio and defensive coordinator Gregg Williams talk strategy. The Williams-led defense has the lowest ranking in Del Rio's tenure.

in Jacksonville. Williams declined to discuss the future, but Del Rio said Williams has a lot of options.

"He's a very popular coach. He's a very good coach," Del Rio said. "When he came in, I was lucky enough to hire

him this year. He's going to be a popular guy, very much in demand, not only for other coordinator jobs but

"He's going to be a popular guy, very much in demand."

JACK DEL RIO, JAGUARS COACH

for possible head jobs."

Williams likely won't list this season's accomplishments atop his resume. The Jaguars are on pace for their worst defensive season since 2002, and Del Rio has vowed to make changes.

Cornerback Brian Williams said a coordinator switch wouldn't be as big a setback as some might expect. "Football is football. It's Cover One, Two, Three, you blitz, play man-to-man," he said. "It's football no matter who's calling it and what coordinator you have." MARK LONG (AP)

Peyton's Place: Does Peyton Manning deserve to start the Pro Bowl? Offer your thoughts and tackle the question du jour | washingtonpost.com/theleague

Saints Place Bush on IR With Sprained MCL

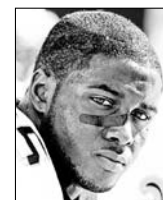
NFL | Running back Reggie Bush will miss the final two games of the New Orleans Saints' season.

Bush sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee during the Saints' loss at Chicago last Thursday night.

The knee was examined over the weekend and coach Sean Payton said at practice on Wednesday that the team decided to put Bush on injured reserve.

Payton said the Saints would not have placed Bush on injured reserve if they were still fighting to reach the postseason. He said Bush's injury does not require surgery, just rest and rehabilitation.

Bush rushed for 404 yards and two touchdowns, caught 52 passes for 440 yards and four TDs, and scored three touchdowns on punt runbacks this season. (AP)



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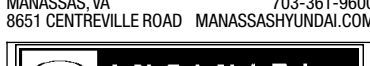
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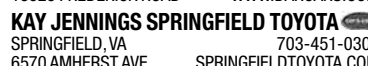
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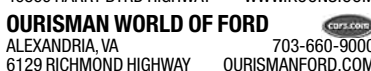
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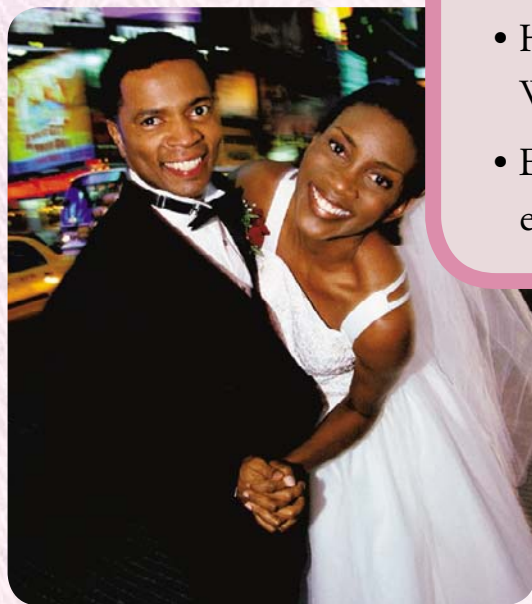


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BACK ON TRACK: Tiger Woods has started to hit balls with short irons and says he's able to stabilize his rebuilt left knee. The 14-time major champion says he's right on schedule to play in the Masters. Woods had reconstructive surgery a week after winning a playoff for the U.S. Open title in June.

Sports



Wake Forest's Riley Skinner committed five turnovers against Navy this year.

Wake, QB Ready for Seconds

Skinner tries to atone for his worst game in a rematch with Navy

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Riley Skinner has long wanted a second chance to face Navy. The Wake Forest quarterback figures the Midshipmen are just as eager to see him again, too.

"They're probably licking their chops right now, ready to pad their stats," Skinner joked Tuesday.

For good reason. When they met three months ago, Skinner's five turnovers helped Navy upset the then-No. 16 Demon Deacons 24-17. Now he's looking to redeem himself on Saturday when he faces the Midshipmen again in a rare postseason rematch at the EagleBank Bowl.

"If you're a quarterback and you've had that kind of game, the worst game of your career, you'd be crazy if you didn't want another shot at them," Skinner said.

The Demon Deacons' slide from Atlantic Coast Conference title contender to lower-level bowl team seemed to start that sloppy Sept. 27. After its 3-0 start was spoiled, Wake Forest (7-5) lost five of its final nine games and backed into the ninth and final bowl game with an automatic ACC tie-in played in cold Washington, D.C. (AP)



SNEAKY SHOT: Capitals center Nicklas Backstrom, left, tries to slip the puck past Islanders goalie Joey MacDonald Tuesday.

Caps' Play Is 'Far Too Cute'

Washington continues to set higher standard as it sits in first place

CAPITALS | Here is a measure of just how far the Washington Capitals have come in a year's time: They are not satisfied merely with accumulating victories.

Nowadays, they evaluate victories.

And on Wednesday, the way

coach Bruce Boudreau ran practice and the way general manager George McPhee spoke made it quite clear that their team's latest performance — a 5-4 overtime win after blowing a 4-2 lead against the last-place New York Islanders — did not cut it.

So what if Alex Ovechkin and co. are on a four-game winning streak? So what if the Capitals are in first place? So what if Washington's eight-point margin atop

the Southeast Division entering Wednesday matched its largest lead since March 2001?

"We didn't play well enough last night. We didn't respect our opponent, and we didn't play hard for the entire game. You could see early in the game that we had a couple of players that were playing far too cute. It was our grinders that got us through," McPhee said. "We expect and demand a lot from these guys now."

That's what happens when a team goes from finishing 27th in the 30-team NHL twice in a row and standing at the very bottom of the league in late November 2007 to a division title and playoff appearance by the end of last season.

The way GM George McPhee spoke made it quite clear that the team's [win] did not cut it.

Everyone hopes for — demands, to use McPhee's term — more.

"We've all set the bar higher, and we all want to be perfect, and I think we were far from it last night, but we found a way to win. You don't like to give up leads in the third period," said Boudreau, who shuffled his forward lines in Wednesday's session. "We don't want that to all of a sudden be something that rolls into the next game, so we try to end it right there."

As much as McPhee and Boudreau expect from their players, those players expect a lot from themselves.

Even Ovechkin, whose two goals against the Islanders included the winner on a wrist shot with 10 seconds left in OT, sounded upset a day later.

"We take it as, like, a negative. Winning 4-2, we just stopped playing," he said. HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

CAPITALS (7 P.M. ON CSN) The red-hot Capitals host the St. Louis Blues.

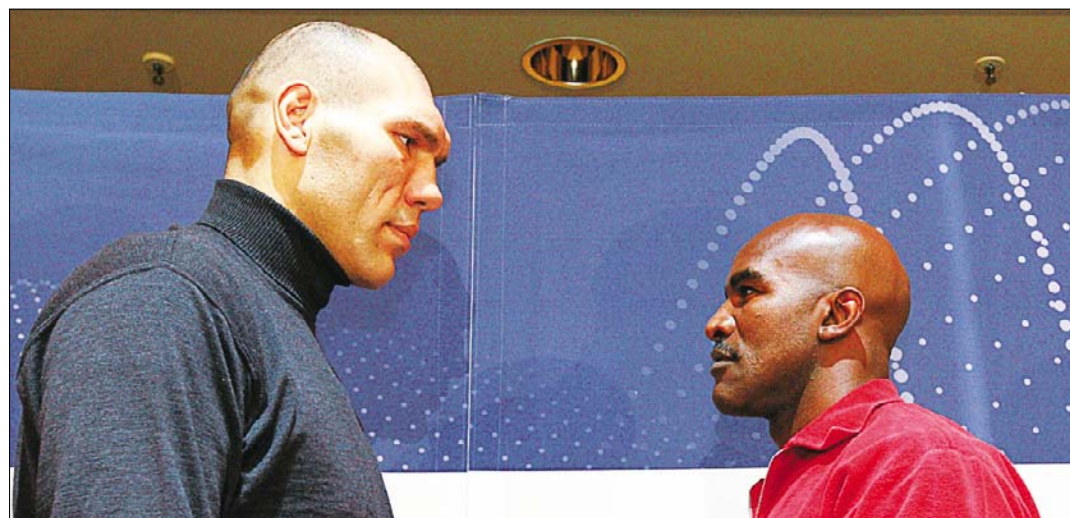
NFL (8:15 P.M. ON NFL NETWORK) Indy-Jacksonville looked like a big game before the season started. It's not now.

NBA (8:15 P.M. AND 10:30 P.M. ON TNT) Tim Duncan and the Spurs visit Dwight Howard and the Magic, and the Trail Blazers host the Suns.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (6:30 P.M. ON ESPN2; 7 P.M. AND 9 P.M. ON ESPN) Mississippi State is at Cincinnati, No. 1 North Carolina hosts Evansville, and No. 9 Louisville plays Mississippi in Cincinnati.

VOLLEYBALL (9 P.M. ON ESPN2) Nebraska plays Penn State in the semifinals of the women's NCAA tournament.

BOXING | HOLYFIELD VS. GOLIATH



MISMATCH? WBA champ Nikolai Valuev, who is 7 feet tall, poses with Evander Holyfield Wednesday. They fight Saturday.

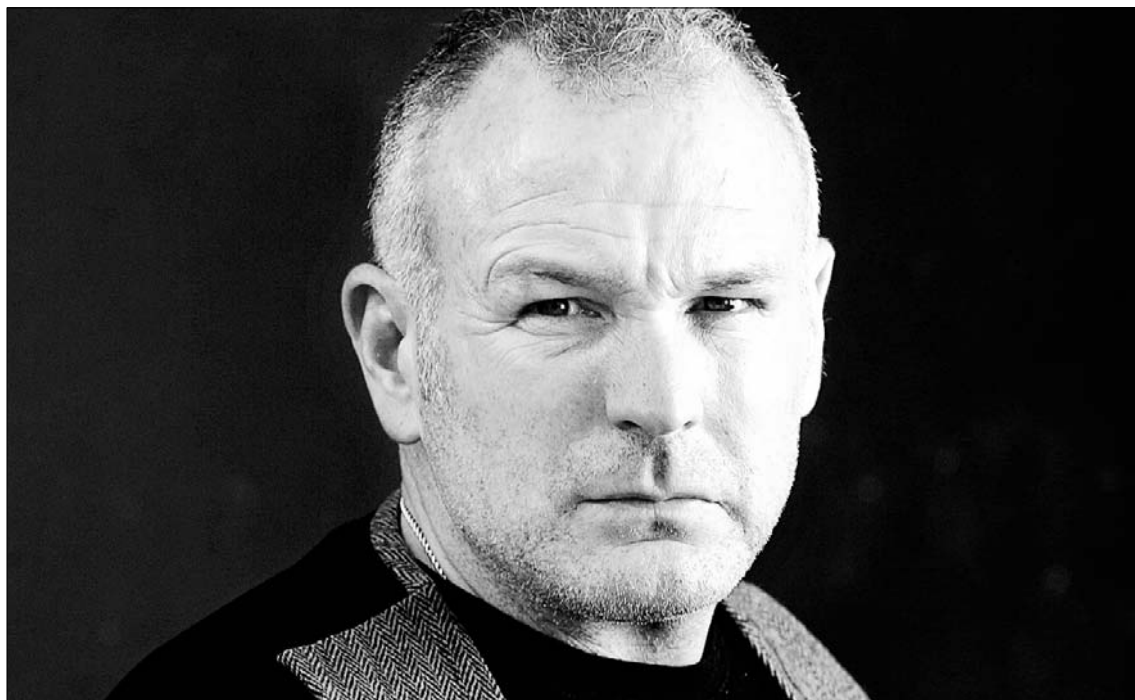


Bog bowls: Dan Steinberg follows the lead-up to the D.C. bowl | <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dcsportsbog/>

Entertainment



SECESSION FROM 'IDOL' LAND: Canada's version of "American Idol" won't be produced in 2009, because of the slowing economy. "Canadian Idol" is being shelved, CTV says. The program finished its sixth season this fall and remained a ratings success.



TURN THE BEAT AROUND: Goodman was on a dark path and even served time in prison, but his career in movies has saved him.

Storied Truth

Brian Goodman puts his troubled past into a heartfelt screenplay

REAL LIFE | The bullet that's lodged in Brian Goodman's brain serves as a constant reminder.

"One thing you can't lose sight of is where I could be, where I am supposed to be and where I have been," he says in his strong south

Boston accent.

Goodman looks older than his 45 years. He's had a tough life. At 12, he quit school and was living on the streets. He sold drugs to survive and has been shot several times in deals gone bad. Goodman, who married young and had two boys, served nearly five years in prison for his criminal activity.

"Today is my 14th year of sobriety," he announces proudly at one

of his favorite restaurants. "I started going to AA meetings in prison. Then I relapsed once and stopped on Dec. 8, 1994. I am a guy who just can't drink."

Since he gave up drinking, Goodman has transformed himself from an ex-con into a noted character actor in such films as "The Last Castle," "Annapolis" and "Munich." And now, he can add screenwriter and feature director to his list of

accomplishments.

His first film, "What Doesn't Kill You," a gritty, semi-autobiographical look at his life of crime starring Mark Ruffalo as his reel counterpart, opened Friday in a few cities for a one-week theatrical run to qualify for awards consideration. Ethan Hawke plays Paulie, a partner in crime to Ruffalo's character.

Ruffalo and Hawke play childhood friends who become involved in some unsavory activities. Ruffalo's character begins to clean up his act, but Paulie keeps pulling him back down.

Goodman is still in contact with many of his cohorts from the old days. "I just mailed a money order to a friend of mine who is doing life. I never forget where I could be."

When he got out of prison, Goodman says, he started robbing drug dealers. "I tried to fill this hole [in my heart] with money, and for the first time, it didn't work," he says.

But fate intervened when he learned that there were auditions for a low-budget film, "Southie," starring Donnie Wahlberg. "That was my first audition," he says. "The first three auditions I was sent on, I got speaking roles. I was still on parole, though, and couldn't leave the state."

He began writing "What Doesn't Kill You" after reading the script for "Southie." "I thought maybe I can write one of these things," he explains. "I started writing on this 37-cent notepad. I just kept writing. My sister typed it for me." **SUSAN KING** (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



Dave Gahan believes in old school album structure — no more than 12 songs.

Enjoy The Fresh Tracks

Depeche Mode won't remain silent — look for a new album soon

ALBUMS | Depeche Mode has finished recording work on its forthcoming studio album, its first since 2005's "Playing the Angel."

"We've completed the record," the band's frontman, Dave Gahan, says. He says the still-untitled album, slated for release in the spring, will have about 12 tracks. "We've been spoiled for choice with this one because we recorded more songs for this record than we ever had for any [other] record," he said. "Maybe I'm old-school, but once you start going over 12 songs, I think it becomes a little weird."

Gahan confirmed that the release will contain the tracks "Wrong" and "Peace," snippets of which have been circulating on the Web. Gahan clarified that the actual title of "Peace" is "Peace Will Come to Me."

Additionally, he unveiled the titles of three more new tracks — "Hole to Feed," "Comeback" and "In Chains" — that are likely set for inclusion on the album.

"We actually have about 18 songs," he said, even hinting that the band will release a special EP or online-only add-on with the extra material.

CHARLIE AMTER (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Straight From the Source's Pen

Who better to put the Clash's legacy on paper than the Clash?

BOOK | Despite its influence, the Clash has inspired only a handful of books. There's Marcus Gray's group history, "Return of the Last Gang in Town"; tour manager Johnny Green's memoir, "A Riot of Our Own"; Pat Gilbert's "Passion Is a Fashion"; and Chris Salewicz's biography of Joe Strummer, "Redemp-

tion Song." It's a pretty thin shelf for the group that billed itself as "the only band that matters."

And yet, as "The Clash" makes clear, the band's true legacy might be that it couldn't be encapsulated. Certainly, that's the idea behind this book, which comes credited to the group's four main members (Joe Strummer, Mick Jones, Paul Simonon, Topper Headon), although Strummer died in 2002.

A mash-up of interviews and



"The Clash" is essentially a scrapbook of the band's best years together.

commentary, lavishly illustrated with tour and studio photos, promotional fliers, album covers and even a French comic strip, this is more scrapbook than exegesis, a collage spanning the years from 1976, when the Clash was formed, to 1983, when Strummer fired Jones and effectively ended the group's supernova run.

If you know the story, there's not much new here, but it is fun to read it in the band members' words.

DAVID L. ULIN (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Entertainment

Metal Exterior

Skeletonwitch's hard facade gives way to a lighthearted bunch

MUSIC | The five members of Skeletonwitch may seem like they slaughter small animals to satisfy the dark lords, but grim looks can be deceiving.

"We take metal very seriously, but we also take having a good time very seriously," said guitarist Scott Hedrick. "We're not out there on the road sacrificing goats and being pissed off all day. Being in a band with your best friends is fun — so is heavy metal."

On the recent CD "Beyond the Permafrost," Skeletonwitch combines galloping riffs reminiscent of Judas Priest and Iron Maiden, crunchy thrash sections that recall early Metallica and Slayer, and the screechy-to-guttural vocals of black and death metal. It's a heavy mix, but during the band's 2008 European tour with death metallers Cephalic Carnage and Hate Eternal, Skeletonwitch found itself to be the easiest listening of the bunch.

"In certain cities, especially the farther in Eastern Europe we went, there were people who just wanted to be bludgeoned to death



Though the band looks, well, like this, Skeletonwitch puts quality over loud noises.

TO LISTEN TO Skeletonwitch, visit us online at Expressnightout.com

by the most extreme [stuff] fathomable," Hedrick said. "Whereas we're doing some New Wave of British heavy metal mixed with thrash and death, but I could see guys in the crowd who were, like, 'Well, I can't murder somebody to this part, so I don't really like this.' And they were just waiting for Hate Eternal to blast them into oblivion."

One of the things that makes Skeletonwitch's sound unique in

today's metal scene is the simple act of tuning a guitar like, well, a guitar.

"I can't stand over-sterilized production or something that sounds like it was recorded in a laboratory," Hendrick said.

That's because laboratories are for small animals, not music. (We kid! It's a metal joke!)

CHRISTOPHER PORTER (EXPRESS)

→ 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Sun., 5 p.m., \$15; 202-265-0930; 930.com. (U St.-Cardozo)

'70s Icons Face the Music

Joel and John will tour together and hum the same tune

COLLABORATION | Elton John is looking to whip up a little something special for his upcoming Face 2 Face tour with fellow '70s piano man Billy Joel to make it more than just



We hope to see a lot of these sorts of pictures from the Face 2 Face tour.

a greatest-hits outing. Returning to the concert trail together starting

next spring for the first time in six years, John and Joel want to inject new music into the mix.

"We're thinking about recording three songs together," John told the Los Angeles Times on Tuesday. "Definitely not our own songs, or oldies, but we're interested in getting some people to write new songs for us. I've got Raphael Saddiq and Nile Rodgers working on something, so we're booking some time to go into the studio and record."

On previous joint road trips in 1995, 2001-02 and 2003, the Face 2 Face tour turned into one of the top 10 grossing tours of those years. The 2009 tour is scheduled to open March 2 in Jacksonville, Fla. RANDY LEWIS (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



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Television



IN WITH THE NEW: MSNBC named David Shuster the anchor of "1600 Pennsylvania Avenue," the nightly news program on politics. Shuster will replace David Gregory, who left the show — created earlier this year — when he became moderator of "Meet the Press."

Let the Year-End Game Begin

Regis Philbin hosts 'Password' as TV winds down for 2008

PLAY | Christmas is just a week away and New Year's Day a half-month away, but 2008 is pretty much over as far as the networks are concerned. With two exceptions, all of tonight's offerings are in reruns.

Regis Philbin returns to host "Million Dollar Password" (8 p.m., CBS) the revamped version of the classic game show introduced last summer.

Game shows are divided into two categories: those that allow ordinary folks to make money and those that feature rich Hollywood stars playing for charity. The first might have more appeal in these straightened times, but in its wis-



DAPPER FELLOW: Regis is looking ready to host "Million Dollar Password."

dom, CBS and "Password" opt for the second.

Tonight's players include William Shatner, host of his own talk show, "Raw Nerve" on the Biography Channel. Aisha Tyler ("CSI,"

"Ghost Whisperer") also appears. "Password" will feature reality show hosts Julie Chen ("Big Brother") and Phil Keoghan ("Amazing Race") this Sunday. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

ON TV TONIGHT

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRANK
Jim Carrey plays the mean green figure in the 2000 adaptation of **DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS** (8 p.m., Family).

BEHIND THE SCENES
The feel-good reality series **SECRET MILLIONAIRE** (8 p.m., Fox) wraps up its short season when a Utah tycoon honors unsung Vegas heroes.

NEVER GOES BAD
On two reruns of **THE OFFICE** (NBC), a robbery inspires a charity auction (9 p.m.), and Dwight and Jim flunk their customer surveys (10:30 p.m.).

SACRED SPACE
SECRETS OF THE KUNG FU TEMPLE (10 p.m., National Geographic) looks at the Shaolin Temple, the birthplace of the celebrated martial art and home to Zen Buddhism. We learn how the temple has been embattled, destroyed and rebuilt over the centuries, surviving the cultural revolution of the 1960s



Country superstar Faith Hill serenades us with good cheer tonight on PBS.

A VERY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
Faith Hill performs songs from her new Christmas album, **JOY TO THE WORLD**, (10 p.m., PBS) featuring a 31-person orchestra under the direction of conductor David Campbell and a nine-person choir. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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Large condo in PG County seeks Groundskeeper to maintain ground & support maintenance staff. Must be able to work in a fast paced environment with close attention to detail. Fax resume to 301-459-1270

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MD Dept of Juvenile Services is currently seeking a Psychologist I located at the Noyes Children Center in Rockville, MD. Candidates must be licensed as a Psychologist by the MD Board of Examiners of Psychologists prior to permanent appointment to a position in State service.

Please visit www.djs.state.md.us or www.dbm.maryland.gov for application procedures for detailed job description. EOE

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6400 Riverdale Road • Riverdale, MD 20737

GATED COMMUNITY
Beautiful Kitchens - Granite Countertops

- Fitness Center on Property
- Washer/Dryer**
- Beautiful Kitchens-Granite Countertops**
- Outdoor & Indoor Pools
- Free 6 week summer camp

Call now for our
FANTASTIC SPECIALS

*Call for details
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800-767-2189
5409 Riverdale Road • Riverdale, MD 20781

- Roomy, Modern Apts
- Private Balconies/Patios
- Free 6 week summer camp
- Cathedral ceiling *select units
- 1, 2, & 3 BR AVAILABLE.
- HUGE 2 BR TOWNHOMES

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DEPOSIT ONLY

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3402 Dodge Park Road • Landover, MD 20785

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- Walk to Metro
- Walk to Elementary School
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- Free 6 week summer camp
- Security Deposit payment plan (call for details)

OPEN HOUSE
SAT. DEC. 20TH (10-4)
SUN. DEC. 21ST (12-4)
- Move in w/Deposit Only
- \$300 Off Jan. Rent (2BR)
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Come Visit us Mon.-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4
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RENTALS

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- Balconies with Great Views
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- Fitness Center
- Individually Controlled A/C
- Covered Garage Parking
- All New Kitchen Cabinets
- Walk to Downtown, Waterfront, Metro, Shopping, Restaurants
- Small Pets Welcome
- Walk to Nationals Stadium

Limited Availability, Restrictions Apply *On Selected Units



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DECEMBER RENT FREE
SIGN BY DECEMBER 14TH

NO application fee with approved credit
Be in your new Home by the Holidays
Instant Pre-Approval

- Close to Shopping
- Close to Transportation
- Free After School Program (ages 5 thru 12)
- Upgraded Apts Available
- Wall to Wall Carpeting
- Central air/heat
- Shuttle Service Available
- Tennis Courts/Pool
- Mins from National Harbor

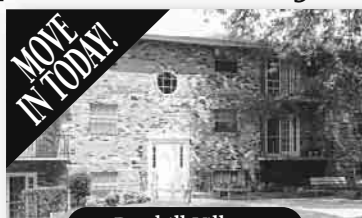
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9am-6pm
Sat.: 10-5pm
Sun.: By Appt only

Park Forest
2 BR from \$875
625 Audrey Lane, Oxon Hill, MD 20745
877-721-7315
www.theparkforest.com



Forestville, MD

FREE RENT IN JANUARY*



Dunhill Village

5815 Marlboro Pike
gradymgt.com

1 br's \$980
1 br's + den from low \$1,100's
2br's from upper \$1,100's

- Minutes from Suitland Metro
- Grand sized apartment homes
- Separate dining area
- French doors open to covered balcony or terrace
- Near Walker Mill Regional Park - trails, tennis
- Community pool, play area and tot lot

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*Move in by 12/26/08.

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Text 'WCS6' to #30364 for instant info & Photos
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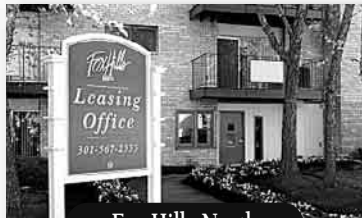


*Limited time on select units. William C. Smith & Co.



Oxon Hill, MD

\$99 SECURITY DEPOSIT*



Fox Hills North

1108 Kennebec St
gradymgt.com

1 br's from \$801
2 br's from low \$900's
2 br's + den from low \$1,000's
3 br's + 1.5 BA from upper \$1,000's

- Controlled access
- Metro bus stops here
- Eat-in kitchens w/ breakfast bars
- Unexpectedly large living rooms
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EHO

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FREE RENT
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- Controlled access
- Walk in Closets

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- Playgrounds
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• EHO *must move in by Dec. 15

DIST HGTS— 3BR, 1.5BA, TH, full bsmt., deck, \$1700/mo. + utils. Sec 8 ok. 202.581-1029

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Lovely and spacious 1 & 2brdm apts and townhomes starting at \$830. Located on two major subway lines and front door bus stop. A must see with skylights, cathedral ceilings and private entrances. Available for immediate occupancy. Application fee waived First month free!! Take additional \$100 off of rent for a 12month lease by 12/31 **Contact (301) 967-0082.**

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- Minutes to Suitland and Branch Ave. Metro locations
- Minutes to DC, I-495
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Campus Gardens
(301) 434-4984

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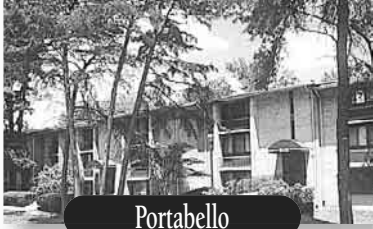
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Oxon Hill, MD

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1 br's from mid \$900's
2 br's from low \$1,200's
2 br's + den from low \$1,300's
3 br townes from low \$1,500's

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- Elementary & H.S. next to Community
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- Individual alarm systems
- Wall-to-Wall carpet
- Select Apts/heat included

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PERFECTLY NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL



Eff's from upper \$900's
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3 br's from mid \$1,400's

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- Picnic & play areas
- Bordered by Rock Creek Park
- Award Winning Maint. & Mgt. Team
- Garden & mid-rise apartments
- Community Lodge & Private Pool

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*Select Apts. Call for details.

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GRADY MANAGEMENT, INC.
Equal Housing Opportunity

RENTALS

Silver Spring, MD

DRIVE LESS, ENJOY MORE



Eff's from low \$900's
1 br's from upper \$1,000's
2 br's from upper \$1,100's
3 br's from upper \$1,400's

- 2 Blocks to Metro
- Parkland Setting
- Picnic & Play Areas
- Plush Wall-to-Wall Carpeting
- Close to Shopping
- Community Swim Club

888-709-1873


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gradymgt.com

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Silver Spring, MD

FREE GAS, ELECTRIC, WATER*



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- Luxury garden and mid-rise apts
- Eat-in kitchens in garden apts.
- Huge balconies or patios
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- Ride on Bus at community entrance
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- MORE!

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Up to Two Months Rent Free*!
32" Flat Screen TV and more...!**

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Spacious 1,2,3,4 BR Apt. Homes

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Hyattsville, MD 20784

*on select apartments; ask for details

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- Wall-to-wall carpet
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No application fee with credit approval.

- Large apartments • Spacious closets • High Speed Internet • near to recreational facility • near to Shopping Center, Rt. 28, Rt. 234, I66 & I-95 • 2 blocks from the Virginia train.

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- In Dupont Circle
- Beautiful Brick Building
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LOOK out

*TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Education

Big Picture schools let students direct their own curricula

It sounds like a student's dream school — no teachers, no homework, no tests, no grades.

Educators, too, say the Big Picture High School in Lafayette, N.Y., is a vision realized. For different reasons, though.

"This is how I ideally envisioned education," said Leonardo Oppedisano, a former science teacher who is now an adviser to the school's first ninth-grade class.

"This program is about helping a kid find their passion," said Oppedisano to students. "I am not a vessel with information trying to impart it all on them. I am advising them on the path that they should take toward learning. It is much more a cooperative relationship."

“We really believe students will see a real purpose to their learning through this approach.”

SUSAN OSBORN, BIG PICTURE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The small farming community in upstate New York is among 60 nationwide to experiment with the Big Picture high school approach but just the second rural district to try it.

At Big Picture schools, students design their own learning plans and set their own goals with the help of parents and mentors. At Lafayette, one instructor — purposely called an adviser instead of a teacher — handles all the lessons and stays with the same class for four years

until they graduate.

Two days a week, students work with mentors at internships outside the school, and everyone who graduates is expected to apply and be accepted into at least one college.

Big Picture schools emphasize work in the real world, portfolios, oral presentations and intense relationships between students and advisers.

"We really believe students will see a real purpose to their learning through this approach," said Principal Susan Osborn.

The Big Picture Company was founded by educators Dennis Littky and Elliot Washor, both formerly of the Thayer High School in New Hampshire and the Annenberg

Life Lessons

Institute for School Reform at Brown University. In 1996, they opened their first student-centered high school, in Providence, R.I.

There are now about 7,500 students in 16 states attending Big Picture schools, which boast a 92 percent graduation rate — more than 20 percentage points higher than the New York state, and national averages and nearly double the rate for inner-city students — and send nearly 95 percent of their students for post-secondary learning, Ewens said.

The focus on personalized learning and community involvement are key in retaining students, said Elizabeth Schneider, vice president of state relations for the nonprofit Alliance for Excellent Education.

"They [Big Picture schools] are just one of several different models out there that take this approach," Schneider said. "But personalization is absolutely one of the key

INSIDE

Soulja Boy apologizes to parents | 30

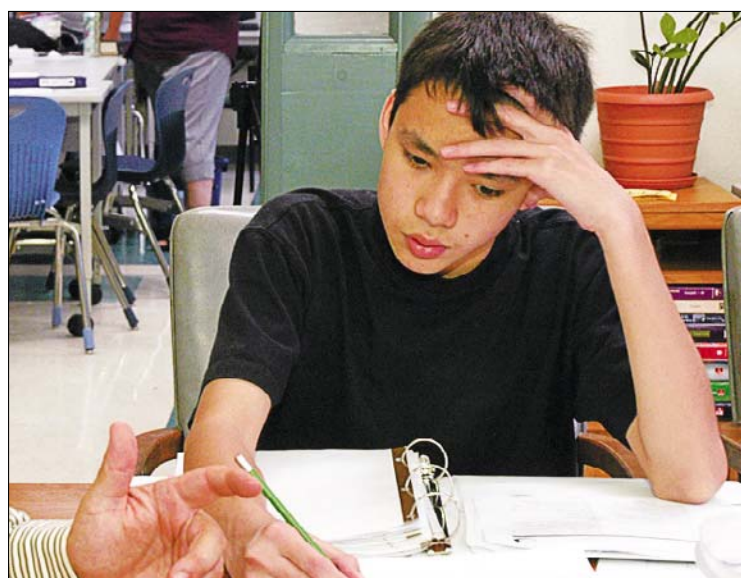


Blog Log: Crocs and socks do not rock | 28

Discussions: Video games for gifts | 28



ONE-ON-ONE: Principal Susan Osborn works with students at the Big Picture High School in Lafayette, N.Y.



Ninth-grader Maurice Nash works on a project at the Big Picture High School.

features of the highest-performing programs ... tapping into what is relevant, interesting and engaging to the student."

The Silent Epidemic summit held last year in Washington, D.C.

reported that 80 percent of students who dropped out of school said they would have likely graduated if their schools had provided them with real-world learning opportunities, Schneider noted.

But Schneider acknowledged that some of the attributes that make such programs successful also can be among the reasons they are not — having the same instructor for four years, giving students responsibility for their own learning goals and the lack of rigid routine.

"We need multiple pathways. We have to recognize that the old-fashioned lecture-style classroom isn't suited for every student," Schneider said.

The Lafayette school opened in September with 15 freshmen. Every year, another group will be admitted for a maximum of 60 students, Osborn said.

There is no charge for attending the school, which operates from the school district general budget. Although anyone can apply, the school is an attempt to attract at-risk students who are in danger of dropping out.

Current students in the Lafayette program are interested in law enforcement, nursing, photography, music performance and underwater welding.

"School is more interesting," said 15-year-old Nicole Bishop, who wants to have a career in photography. "I'm definitely more excited about learning now." WILLIAM KATES (AP)

LOOK out Online

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TELEVISION

Hail to the Chef

O! Danny boy was sent packing on last week's "Top Chef," taking his carefully groomed beard with him. Who's in the lead? Who needs to crack the "Betty Crocker"? And what happened on last night's episode? Karmah Elmusa tells all in her Hail to the Chef blog. | COMING UP



SOUND BETS

Forever Gaunt

Christopher Porter was one of the few at the Velvet Lounge on Tuesday to see cult singer-songwriter Elliott Murphy — and it was amazing. It made him think of another poorly attended but rewarding concert in 1998, featuring a great band with a tragedy in its near future. | COMING UP

BAGGAGE CHECK

The Real Facebook

Dr. Andrea tried to order some food recently, but neither she nor her server spoke the other's language. But some simple body movements and facial expressions got the job done, causing our good doctor to contemplate the universal human language. | ONLINE NOW



poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

HAS THE BAD ECONOMY MADE YOU FEEL UNEASY ABOUT BUYING HOLIDAY GIFTS THIS YEAR?

YES 60%

NO 40%



"I've always been uneasy

about buying holiday gifts. I never know what anyone wants for Christmas! That's my problem — not the economy!"

COMMENTER MITZI, RESPONDING TO WEDNESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "HAS THE BAD ECONOMY MADE YOU FEEL UNEASY ABOUT BUYING HOLIDAY GIFTS THIS YEAR?"

"I don't feel uneasy, because I try to use common sense when shopping, whether the economy is good or bad."

COMMENTER NANCY, WHO ADDED, "NOT HAVING A LARGE CREDIT CARD BALANCE TO PAY OFF GIVES ONE A TRUE PEACE OF MIND."

"If anything, it's made me conscious of what to buy. Instead of something that is the current fad or the accepted norm, I am more apt to buy something useful."

COMMENTER TRU PATRIOT, WHO ADDED, "LIKE A CRANK-OPERATED EMERGENCY RADIO WITH A CELL PHONE CHARGER."

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER

Blog LOG

"The new two-story Benning library will be 24,000 square feet, and we can't help but dub it the ugly duckling of the bunch."

DCMETROCENTRIC.COM CONSIDERS THE NEW BUILDING DESIGN FOR THE BENNING LIBRARY, THE WORST-LOOKING OF ALL THE D.C. PUBLIC LIBRARIES SET TO BE OVERHAULED.



RON SACHS/POOL VIA GETTY IMAGES

"I know that it's a terribly difficult thing to be on the brink of unemployment. ... What DEFCON level is Crocs with socks?"

CAPITOLHILLSTYLE.WORDPRESS.COM DOESN'T THINK THE PRESIDENT SHOULD EVER GET CAUGHT IN PUBLIC WITH THAT LOOK, EVEN IF HE "INSISTS ON PAIRING THEM WITH PRESIDENTIAL SEAL SOCKS."

"NOT THAT THIS is the end-all, be-all of awesomeness, but on Tuesday night the D.C. Council approved legislation to bring Verizon FiOS to the entire city over the next nine years."

ANACOSTIANOW.BLOGSPOT.COM ADDS, "HERE'S THE GOOD PART: A FEW NEIGHBORHOODS WILL GET SERVICES BY THE END OF 2009, INCLUDING BARRY FARM, FORT STANTON AND HISTORIC ANACOSTIA."

"I don't know who names a kid 'Adolf Hitler.' That's practically child abuse. I hope you can take a punch, kid, because you're in for a rough ride. You will not have fond memories of the playground."

HOMEIMPROVEMENTNINJA.BLOGSPOT.COM IS AMAZED BY THE STORY OF A PENNSYLVANIA CHILD NAMED ADOLF HITLER CAMPBELL. A STORE REFUSED TO PERSONALIZE A CAKE FOR HIM DUE TO HIS NAME.

Discussions

Video Game Gifts

Post @play columnist **MIKE MUSGROVE** was online Wednesday to provide gaming gift advice for the holiday season.

My 5-year-old son loves to play games on the computer, but I've found that after about 20 to 30 minutes of playing them, he becomes angry and combative. This year, he's getting three new games for his Leapster, but his friends are getting PSPs and Wiis. I have concerns about the anger and intensity of video games. Are there any titles for the PC we should look at for age 5 to 7, or with his disposition, should we just back off entirely? Well, I'm no therapist, but if this were my situation, I'd just back

away from the video game arena for a while. Does he get combative after using the Leapster, too? My stepson, about to turn 8, is no stranger to temper tantrums, but I haven't noticed this behavior in him after playing video games. For what it's worth, he seems to like the Leapster about as much as the DS, even though the Leapster is supposed to be educational and all that.

Has bugginess been a problem with the Lego series? The first "Star Wars" game, the "Indiana Jones" game and the "Batman" game have frozen on my Xbox 360 — I'm not sure whether this is a company problem or not. I've spent a lot of time with all these games and never had the Xbox 360 freeze on me. (The only title that I can recall freezing my Xbox has been "Fallout 3.") I have often noticed that the game sometimes "tears." That is, there's a line in the middle of the

screen where the top and the bottom visuals are briefly out of sync with each other. That's the only issue I've ever noticed with them.

I want to bring a little nostalgia to the holidays. I'm planning on giving the kids Super Nintendo games instead of all newer things. Do you know of a place to get them, or is eBay my only shot?

Hey, this reminds me: I should mention a site and local company called Goozex.com. It's a good service for trading in your old games with other gamers, and it does seem that people are sometimes trading older titles, though I don't know whether it goes back far enough to include SNES.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Personal finance columnist Michelle Singletary will host a free-for-all discussion about money matters at noon. | washingtonpost.com/discussions.

LOOK out

People



ANDREDEJENES/CHRISTIE'S

If she were alive, they'd go for \$25 to \$30.

VALUE

Death Becomes the Price of Celebrity Photography

A collection of photographs of **MARILYN MONROE** taken for Vogue magazine the year she died has been auctioned at Christie's in New York for nearly \$150,000. They were the last professional images taken of Monroe. The buyers were anonymous. (AP)

ENVY

Akon Sees Therapist for 'Stolen Thunder Complex'



Hip-hop star **AKON** pleaded guilty Wednesday to harassment for tossing a fan off the stage at a concert last year.

He will serve no jail time as long he performs 65 hours of community service and pays a \$250. (AP)



AP

RESOLUTION

Roleja Model

SOULJA BOY started a dance craze last year with his Grammy-nominated hit "Crank That (Soulja Boy)." Some of the language and subject matter in that hit was risqué. In an interview this week, Soulja Boy apologized to parents. "I've realize that I got a large fan base of kids that look up to me," he said. "I have a greater responsibility to the kids, and I need set a positive example." (AP)

TITLE:

'The Little Publicity Stunt That Won't Die'

A tease for the season finale of MTV's "The Hills" seemed to indicate that **SPENCER PRATT** and **HEIDI MONTAG** have made their unofficial Mexican wedding ceremony legitimate. Despite all the official trappings, the tease of legitimate



They'll milk this for way more than it's worth.

nuptials for the pair may be just that. A Los Angeles Superior Court official said that MTV was granted permission to shoot in a courtroom, but that it was done after hours — and that's not one of their judges in "The Hills" footage. (AP)

PROTECTION

Luckily, Ronson Always Carries a Can of Whoop-Ass

Scottsdale, Ariz., police say they arrested a Phoenix man early Wednesday after he allegedly pushed a nightclub security guard while trying to get close to actress **LINDSAY LOHAN**. Police say Lohan and her pal



Samantha Ronson were trying to leave the Jackrabbit Lounge nightclub when the 38-year-old fan tried to get around them, pushed one of the guards and became disruptive. (AP)

WISHES

Will.i.am Prays Nightly for Obama Bromance in 2009

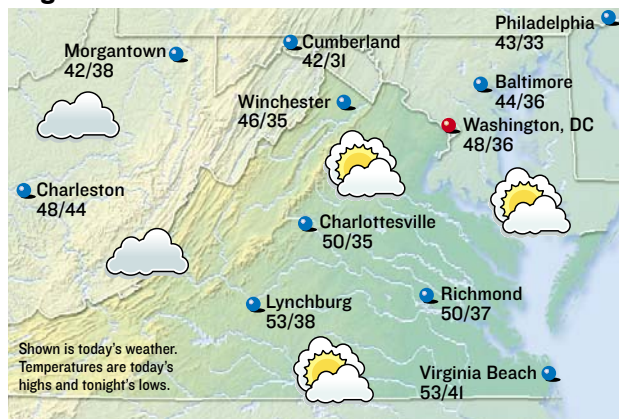
It's fitting that **WILL.I.AM** will celebrate 2009 by singing "It's a New Day" on New Year's Eve. He is set to perform on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest." Will.i.am has said the song was inspired by the victory of President elect-Barack Obama. (AP)



5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Cloudy to partly sunny	Mostly cloudy, rain late	Cloudy, some rain	Mostly cloudy	Snow or ice, then rain	Partly sunny, windy
48°	36°	48° / 40°	46° / 28°	33° / 30°	39° / 25°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.

Temperature

High	46°
Low	34°
Normal high	46°
Normal low	32°
Average humidity	87%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.53"
Month to date	2.50"
Normal month to date	1.65"
Year to date	46.02"
Last year to date	31.50"
Normal year to date	38.06"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtontimes.com/weather

Regional Forecast

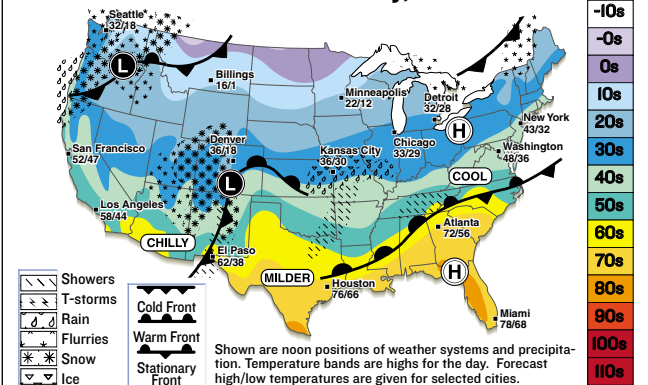
D.C. Metro: Today, mostly cloudy. High 48. Wind northeast 4-8 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, rain late. Low 36. Wind southeast 4-8 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:22 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:48 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:55 p.m.
Moonset today	11:34 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Dec 19	Dec 27	Jan 4	Jan 10

National Weather for Thursday, December 18



National Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	72/56/c	73/54/pc
Boston	36/26/pc	35/18/sn
Chicago	33/29/sn	36/23/sn
Dallas	62/59/sh	75/58/pc
Denver	36/18/c	41/14/pc
Honolulu	81/72/c	80/70/r
Los Angeles	58/44/pc	58/44/pc
Miami	78/68/s	80/66/s
New York City	43/32/pc	38/28/i
Orlando	78/57/s	80/56/s
Seattle	32/18/sf	25/11/pc

World Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Amsterdam	45/41/c	45/39/pc
Athens	64/54/sh	63/52/r
Berlin	39/34/c	38/31/r
Buenos Aires	88/73/pc	90/75/pc
Calgary	-7/-19/sf	-9/-26/c
Dublin	50/39/sh	46/41/r
Geneva	35/32/sn	37/35/sn
Moscow	25/19/pc	27/19/pc
Rome	52/41/r	54/39/c
Sydney	82/64/t	77/59/s
Tokyo	61/43/pc	54/43/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

LOOK out

CROSSWORD | WELL-SPOKEN

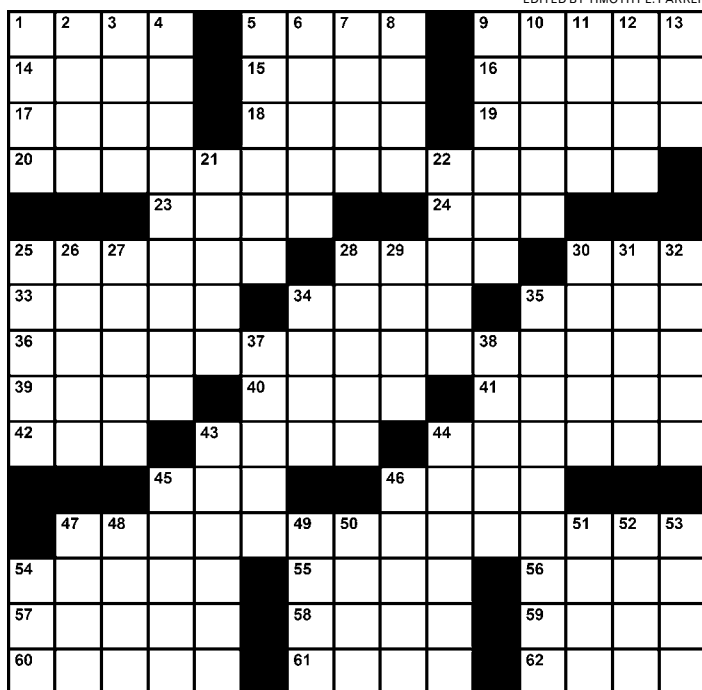
ACROSS

1 Abates
5 Five cents a minute, e.g.
9 Moralistic tale
14 Mumbai wear
15 Ablutionary vessel
16 90 degrees from fore-and-aft
17 Adjective for Death Valley
18 Geometric solids
19 If-___ (computer routines)
20 Say something nice
23 Aftermath
24 Boat maneuverer
25 Dojo activity
28 Arguments
30 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
33 Daggers, in printing
34 Art colony near Santa Fe
35 Nutrient in spinach
36 Yak, yak, yak
39 1989 film "Milo & ___"
40 Limit-pushing tykes
41 Magical wish granter
42 "Hold on a ___!"
43 Get a load of
44 Aircraft shed
45 Big diamond
46 Item often kept on hand?
47 Be totally honest
54 Russian river
55 Find loathsome
56 It rolls on the fairway

57 Allegro ___ (music direction)
58 Declare as true
59 Wino
60 Transparent, as stockings
61 They're never really civil
62 "Majeste" lead-in

DOWN

1 Seesaw-sitter of rhyme
2 Master Simpson
3 One who works to gain pounds?
4 Cafe locales, often
5 Director's prerogative
6 Came around after a knockout
7 She had a "Tootsie" role
8 Joyce's motherland
9 Islamic decrees
10 Apt rhyme for "deplore"
11 Libation station
12 Clinch, as a job
13 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" quartet
21 Ten-to-one, e.g.
22 Be a water witch
25 Many-stringed Japanese instruments
26 Become less intense
27 Curator's acquisition
28 A little hoarse
29 Impressed expressions
30 Plug component

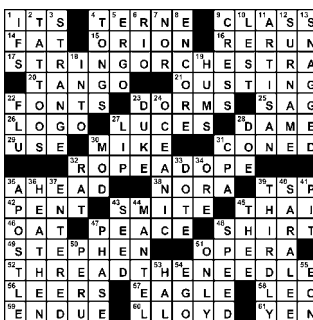


EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

31 Balkan Peninsula capital
32 Read between the lines
34 Fill-in employee
35 Indistinguishable
37 First-generation Japanese-American
38 Playing marble with bands
43 Elongated pastry
44 Backpack totes
45 Fish tank problem
46 Bishop's topper

47 Reggae pioneer Peter
48 "What ___ could go wrong?"
49 Become friendlier
50 Fluid rock
51 Something that's spun
52 Perturbs
53 Eye-opening problem?
54 ___ in victory

Yesterday's Solution



SUDOKU | MEDIUM

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. See www.sudoku.com for solution, tips and computer program.

Need more Su/doku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

Yesterday's Solution

5	9	7	8	3	4	1	6	2
1	4	6	9	5	2	3	8	7
2	8	3	7	6	1	9	5	4
8	7	4	6	9	5	2	3	1
3	5	9	2	1	8	4	7	6
6	2	1	3	4	7	5	9	8
4	3	2	5	8	6	7	1	9
7	6	5	1	2	9	8	4	3
9	1	8	4	7	3	6	2	5

	2			1				7
	7				8	5		1
5			6					
	6							5
			9		5			
	3							9
					6			3
1		3	2					4
2				7				1

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

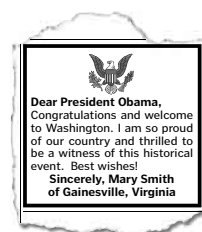


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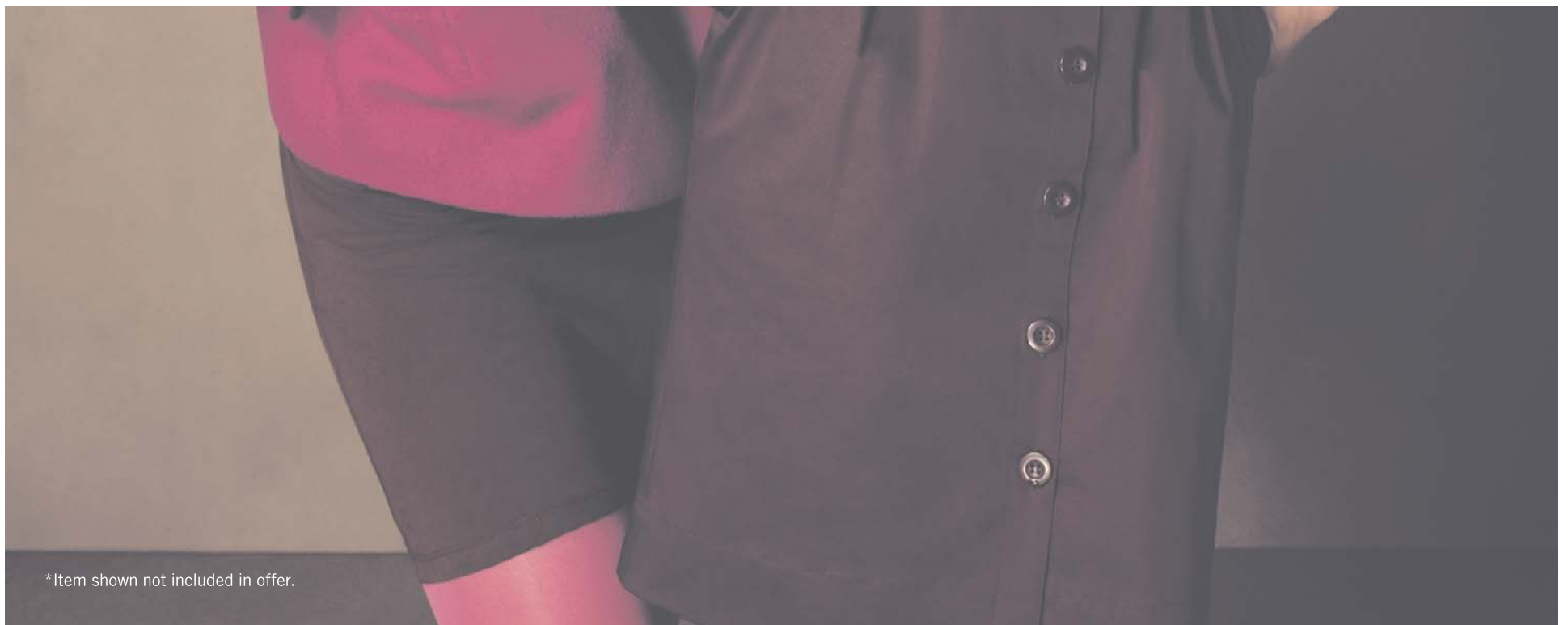


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[on the]spot

*** NAME: Robert Eisenstein**
GIG: Violinist, viol and recorder
player, music director, the Folger
Consort

THE FOLGER Shakespeare Library is enlivened by a jolt of of paprika this weekend as the Folger Consort — Eisenstein and co-founder Christopher Kendall (lute, vihuela, Renaissance guitar, theorbo) head up “A Spanish Christmas” with vocal group the Concord Ensemble. The music draws from sources as diverse as Flenish polyphony and Iberian folk tunes, and represents the rhythmic elasticity and melodic vibrancy of Spain’s Golden Age. When he’s not designing music programs for the Folger and rocking out on the viola da gamba, Eisenstein is the director of the Five College Early Music Program at Mt. Holyoke western Massachusetts.

How do you come up with a

program?

The whole season, as you know, has a Mediterranean theme. Well, Christopher Kendall and I — in conjunction with our management here — usually start with a theme for the season. ... This year, we thought, “Gosh, it would be nice to have a Spanish Christmas program.” So we have Cyprus and Spain and Spain again and a couple of Italian programs ... and then Vivaldi in January.

Vivaldi? That’s, like, what those crazy kids are listening to.

Not really. We not often but frequently do early 18th-century music. These pieces are pretty much early Vivaldi, so not too late for us.

Does your concentration on early music mean you’re running out of interesting works to play?

Oh, no. There’s so much out there. This is something that we’ve been



COURTESY FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

Eisenstein and Consort partner Christopher Kendall celebrate the old-fashioned way.

doing for over 30 years, and I like to think we’ve developed a pretty good process for it. We do the initial brainstorming, and then we fill it in — that’s the fun part for me.

An early Spanish Christmas sounds like a solemn experience.

It was sometimes solemn and sometimes not so solemn. When the vilancicos were put into church ser-

vices, they’d say, “Wait a minute, you can’t have this. You’ve got the choirboys dancing.” If you look at the text of these pieces, they have stock comic characters in them who are charming and faux naïve. ... That’s typical of Renaissance culture to me — the sacred and the profane coexisted.

So children would enjoy this eve-

“That’s typical of Renaissance culture ... the sacred and the profane co-existed.”

ning at the theater?

There’s a lot of music on this program that’s kind of pop in the 17th-century kind of a way.

Most people probably imagine you spend the holidays in gilded chambers tuning lutes and whatnot.

Well, I’m Jewish and my wife’s Catholic, and when our kids were younger we did the holidays as usual. Now I’ve quietly lapsed into dozing by the fire.

ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

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The Horrible Truth

David Harrower's 'Blackbird' starts dark and then grows darker

STAGE | The Studio Theatre's take on "Blackbird" is subtle, yet as resonant as a punch in the face. It's a profound achievement, one that makes audiences uncomfortable within moments of opening and then grows ever darker.

Written by David Harrower, "Blackbird" is about the past abuse of a 12-year-old girl by a 40-year-old man. About a dozen years after the perpetrator Ray (local director Jerry Whiddon) was consequently incarcerated, Una (Lisa Joyce) happens to see his photo and his new name in a small trade magazine and undertakes the long drive to his place of employment.



VICTIMHOOD: Lisa Joyce and Jerry Whiddon play people confronting the past.

The play unfolds in the drab, dirty, pedestrian break room into which Ray has quickly hustled Una. They argue loudly; Una hurls

years of questions at Ray, who stutters answers unapologetically and aggressively, straining to end the encounter.

While Whiddon accomplishes the near-impossible — creating some sympathy for a child abuser — he's outshined by Joyce, who inhabits her role brilliantly, choking back sobs but also showing great strength — in ways that feel powerfully real.

Ray swears that he isn't a pedophile, but that he fell in love with a singularly strong, wise child who doggedly pursued him. "You abused me, didn't you?" Una eventually asks. Ray's answer is "Yes, but ..." Disturbingly, they recount the minutiae of their relationship in the extreme detail with which people recall falling in love.

Harrower has been justly feted for this new script. "Blackbird" skillfully subverts preconceived notions while racing toward a climax that is equally disturbing and believable.

TIM FOLLOS

→ *Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; through Dec. 21, \$41-\$61; 202-332-3300, studiotheatre.org. (Dupont Circle)*

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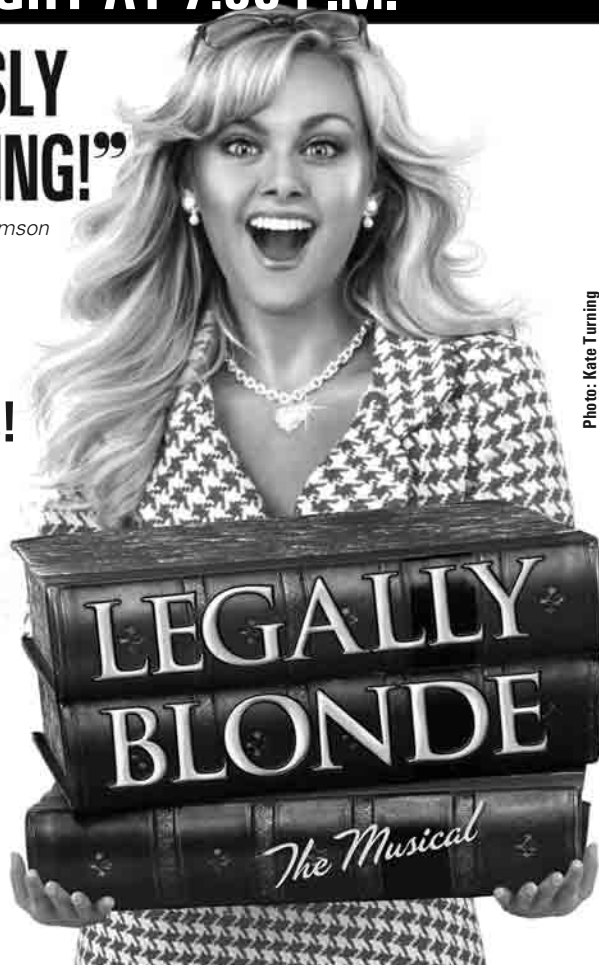


Photo: Kate Turning

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JOAN MARCUS

Give 'Em Elle

'Legally Blonde: The Musical' is here to paint the town pink

STAGE | While it may be the season for red and green, starting on Thursday night, audiences at the Kennedy Center will be thinking the same way: pink.

The musical adaptation of the 2001 Reese Witherspoon film "Legally Blonde" begins its Washington stint nearly two months after it officially ended its Broad-

way run. You may know the musical via MTV's reality show "Legally Blonde: The Musical: The Search for Elle Woods," on which the production's choreographer and first-time director Jerry Mitchell appeared as a judge, ultimately choosing Bailey Hanks to portray Elle Woods.

But while Mitchell's original show is still very much intact — and MTV contestants Lauren Zakrin and Rhiannon Hansen appear in the touring act — Becky Gulsvig, who appeared in the original Broadway cast, gets her chance at



THE GIRL WHO HAS EVERYTHING:

Becky Gulsvig embraces the optimistic, unsinkable, slightly ridiculous role of sorority ditz-turned-law school sharpie Elle Woods in the musical adapted from the 2001 hit comedy.

should at least try for this role."

The show follows the film's plot fairly closely: After Elle's boyfriend, Warner, dumps her because, he claims, she's not smart enough as he heads off to Harvard Law school, the Delta Nu sorority sister dedicates herself to getting into Harvard Law to chase the man she loves. She gets involved in a court case involving a fitness queen and the plot hews to the film from there, except for all the singing and dancing. But Gulsvig said even that seems appropriate.

"It's so much fun, and it's silly, and it's a little bit of heightened reality," she said of the film. "It's funny to watch the film and realize how appropriate it is to make them sing and dance."

One expanded role is that of Paulette, the manicurist played brilliantly in the film by Jennifer Coolidge. The musical teases out Paulette's layers; it also gives prominence to the burgeoning love between Elle and Emmet.

"The thing that was missing for me from the film was the love story

between Elle and Emmet, the guy she ends up with in the end," Mitchell said. "So, I really wanted to pull that out and make that more concrete."

This was Mitchell's first time directing a musical, and, he said, the best one for him to start with.

"This was the perfect one to take the reigns because this was a story I understood," Mitchell said. "In my mind, it was everything a musical should be. You're following a character that everyone wants to win."

The show follows the film's plot fairly closely — except for all the singing and dancing.

Mitchell was attracted to the show's and film's message to look at a person beyond what's on the surface.

"The thing I loved about the film was everyone in the film: Elle, Warner, Emmet — they were all completely stereotypical people, like, literally stereotypes," he said. "A lot of people think everyone is so stereotypical — that's the point. The point is we all go through our day looking at somebody and making a snap judgment purely on sight. That's what we do as humans every day. And what the show teaches you is that you can't judge the book by its cover; there's more underneath, more depth."

For Mitchell, Elle works because she's in line with classic musical heroines such as Tracy Turnblad in "Hairspray" or Rose in "Gypsy: A Musical Fable."

"One of the things that makes Elle so powerful is she never gives up," he said. "If you think about great musicals, the heroine is always the girl who never gives up."

Perhaps Gulsvig put it best when she said why the film translates so well to the stage.

"It's just easy to take silly pink moments and just make them that much pinker." RUDI GREENBERG

→ Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; through Jan. 11, \$25-\$95; 202-467-4600, kennedycenter.org. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)

Elle here, a role she said she coveted since the show workshopped in the spring of 2006.

"Finally having that dream come true was so exciting for me," Gulsvig said. Bearing a sharp physical resemblance to Witherspoon didn't hurt either.

"Well, I think we're quite similar as far as character-wise," she said of Elle. "I have the look for it; I hear nonstop that I'm very similar to Reese Witherspoon, which I definitely think is a compliment, so it seemed kind of natural that I

Working Overtime

The Bacon Brothers want audiences to get past the name

MUSIC | When Kevin Bacon looked at the world and, “kept seeing God as an excuse to go to war,” he decided to write a song. The result was “Children,” from the November release, “News Years Day,” which is a slow-riding plea to transcend political or religious views and, “please don’t hurt the children.”

Yes, foot-tapping worm-evader Kevin Bacon makes music, in a band, for real. Novelty act rubber-stamp aside, it’s been 11 years since Kevin and his musical-scoring brother Michael released their first album under the name the Bacon Brothers, and in that time, the duo have accumulated a smooth, easy-listening folk style and faithful, cult-like fan base.

On the heels of releasing its sixth studio album, the band is in the middle of a mini tour that finds



PART-TIMERS: While both Keven, left, and Michael Bacon have day jobs, being the Bacon Brothers is a full-time second career.

Thursday’s show at the Birchmere and Friday’s double billing in Annapolis sold out. But despite

the accolades, the brothers are still figuring out what this band actually means.

“I don’t think we know what that is,” said Michael by phone. “The band kind of leads us around

by the nose. ... But after 13-14 years of it, and six CDs, it’s definitely a second career for both of us. I don’t think we have to know much about it, except to try and make it as good as we possibly can.”

For the Bacons, “as good as we possibly can” doesn’t always mean doing things on their own — Kevin and Michael rely heavily on the contributions from the other veteran musicians which make up the band.

“It was difficult to start playing onstage,” said Kevin. “To have amazing musicians definitely makes you step up. ... It’s also nice because when you’re playing as a frontman in a rock band, it’s nice to not have to worry that everything’s going to be there for you.”

But just because Kevin feels comfortable onstage, don’t expect to see those songwriting/vocal talents translated to the screen.

“It’s pretty easy to know when your putting a square peg into a round hole,” said Kevin. “I’m already singing. I don’t need to be singing in the movies. With both careers, I don’t want to do anything that will cheapen it.”

NATHAN MARTIN (EXPRESS)

→ *Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Thu., 7:30 p.m., sold out; 703-549-7500, birchmere.com.*

Antidote for a Poisoned Planet

At ‘Green Community,’ sustainability looks like common sense

MUSEUM | These people must be deranged. They have cities where they water the trees with melted snow or light big grass fires to feed the soil. They warm their water underground, charge their batteries with the sun, plant weeds on the roof and some prefer wind power to coal. And they call this natural?

At the National Building Museum, “Green Community” will leave you thinking — hoping, maybe — that humans aren’t such compulsive vandals after all. The notion of greenness comes up a notch from vegan shoes and Tom of Maine toothpaste to whole societies apparently hellbent on better housekeeping. There’s Greensburg, Kan.,



HIGH GROWTH RATE: Photovoltaic solar panels on Samsø Island in Denmark.

redressing last year’s killer tornado with energy-efficient new buildings and rain-absorbing landscape; little Stella, Mo., which with just 180-odd people has established, of all things, a town growth boundary;

and our very own Arlington, where in 20 years, a Metro line has helped turn empty asphalt steppes into a new civilization.

It’s all so curiously ... adroit. “We wanted to avoid a bleak scenario,”

says the show’s curator, the architect Susan Piedmont-Palladino. “We wanted to demystify ‘green’ — that it belongs to people who take classes and have certifications. We wanted to remind people that sustainability is just a big word for common sense.”

Want the bad news? Look elsewhere — you won’t have to look far. Here, through October 2009, you’ll have to make do with proof that an industrial wasteland like the old Atlantic Steel Mill in Atlanta can be rehabbed into earning its own ZIP code (30363) and that not all of the development in the United Arab Emirates is about tattooing fake, palm-shaped islands on top of the deep blue sea. **BRADFORD MCKEE**

→ *National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW; through Oct. 2009; 202-272-2448. (Judiciary Square)*

DANCE | SUGARPLUMS



SHORT AND SWEET: The American Dance Institute performs its hour-long, condensed “Nutcracker” this weekend. The production maintains the charm of the original without stressing the attention span of the young.

Introduce Yourself

D.C.'s Deleted Scenes took its sweet time releasing its first CD

MUSIC | Deleted Scenes admit to being meticulous about their multi-layered music, and the group's debut CD, "Birdseed Shirt," took about a year to record and mix.

"We're a very slow-working band," said singer-guitarist Dan Scheuerman. "The mixing process was long and exhaustive and exhausting; my brain was mush by the end of it. [Recording engineer L Skell] is the most detail-oriented, verging-on-obsessive person I've ever met."

But his obsessiveness gives "Birdseed Shirt" a haunting sonic depth, big but not cavernous. The band's patience and attention to detail paid off, too: "Birdseed Shirt" is one of the D.C. area's finest indie-rock CDs ever released, sounding a bit like the reverbed Americana of My Morning Jacket if that band wasn't always lost in the Grand Can-



THE LONG HELLO: With care, patience and loads of talent, Deleted Scenes assembled one of D.C.'s best indie-rock CDs ever.

yon, or a more vibrant version of Galaxie 500's gentle psychedelia.

The recording process was also interrupted by touring and the

group splitting its time between D.C. and New York City, with a few members still in college. But some of Deleted Scenes' songs have been

kicking around for years, as all four members have played music with each other since they were kids growing up in Olney and Gaith-

ersburg, Md.

Scheuerman's voice is a wounded ghost, recalling the unpolished desperation of Dean Wareham, the Verlaines' Graeme Downes and even Pink Floyd's Roger Waters. And his lyrics seem equally despairing, as on the album-closing "Get Your S__t Together for the Holidays."

"It's not really a holiday song as much as it's a song about family," Scheuerman said, followed by a big sigh. It's actually a song about kicking an addiction, as he sings, "Dust off a box of old forgotten clothes/If you clean up nice, no one will ever know/'Cause what's the point of one more disguise/When you're not even yourself in your daily life?"

"Fake IDs" is equally frustrated, and a 17-year-old Deleted Scenes fan was inspired to make a video for the song.

"We were floored. I thought it got the mood of the song really well," Scheuerman said. "[The video] depicts a couple, and the wife explodes, and then the song takes off. It's very dark and weird." Just like "Birdseed Shirt."

CHRISTOPHER PORTER (EXPRESS)

→ *Black Cat*, 1811 14th St. NW; with *Exit Clov*, La Strada, Thu., 8:30 p.m., \$10; 202-667-4490, blackcatdc.com. (U St-Cardozo)

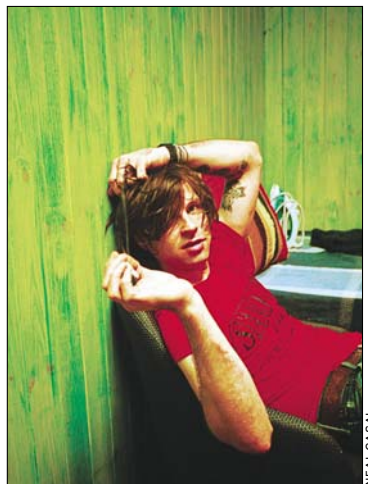
A Steadying Influence

Ryan Adams' backup band keeps his range sounding coherent

MUSIC | When Ryan Adams isn't busy blogging ("Cardinal Cave") or penning fiction ("Infinity Blues," due in April), he's in a rock band — a very good one. The Cardinals, Adams' backing band since 2005, though the lineup has shifted, seems to have finally harnessed Adams' multiple musical personalities.

With "Cardinology," the band's latest album, Adams and the Cardinals continue the trend they set on 2007's "Easy Tiger" — spacey jams, pedal-steel-tinged rockers and country-folk rockers.

The 34-year-old singer seems to put out a clunker every few albums. After "Heartbreaker" and "Gold" there was "Rock N Roll;" after



Ryan Adams' recorded output has been unsteady, but he's a solid live act.

"Cold Roses" and "Jacksonville City Nights" there was "29." But his live show is as good as ever. In the Cardinals, Adams has found the perfect backing for his eclectic tastes. They

can channel early 1970s Grateful Dead, especially, with ease mimicking the Dead's spiciest tendencies with enough poise and polish to rein things in.

In Oasis, Adams has found perfect touring mates — an ego to feed another ego. Oasis guitarist Noel Gallagher has said Adams does the definitive version of the band's smash hit "Wonderwall." (Adams' version appears in all its depressing glory on "Love Is Hell," pre-Cardinals.)

On the heels of "Cardinology," Adams announced that his label, Lost Highway, freed him from his contract. If his past is any sign, expect more music soon — and in massive quantities. **RUDI GREENBERG**

→ *Patriot Center*, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax; with *Oasis*, Matt Costa, Sat., 6 p.m., \$51.50-\$72.50; 800-551-7328.

GALLERY | SQUARESVILLE



LET'S GET SMALL: Strange, tiny or beautiful can all be ascribed to the objects on display in "5x5x(5)" at Target Gallery. Nearly 250 pieces, sharing only the commonality of being five inches or less, are on display in this show requiring good eyesight, patience and a fair amount of squinting.



THE BLUE, BLUE GRASS OF HOME: Junior League Band traffics in old-time bluegrass with eclectic musical borrowings.

Grow Your Own

Junior League Band teases new shades out of bluegrass

LOCAL HEROES | Forget the foothills of Kentucky — the Junior League Band's funky take on bluegrass is alive and well in D.C.

Best known for its hardcore scene during the '80s and a recent outpouring of indie-rock talents, as well as a burgeoning to-be-reckoned-with hip-hop scene, D.C. has long had a bluegrass tradition. But, according to Junior League Band frontwoman Lissy Rosemont, a fresh wave of younger musicians is tapping into the old formula.

"We try to have jam sessions, have people just yell out songs," she said. "It sounds a little hippie. I guess it kinda is."

Friday the band will headline at the 9:30 Club, a far cry from the Ole Time Fiddler's and Bluegrass Festival, which Rosemont's grandfather helped found during the Great Depression and is the origin

of her love for bluegrass.

"Bringing this kind of this old-timey family thing into this historic rock room is kind of a blast," she said. "We're trying to bring a little twist to our performance."

“We try to have jam sessions, have people just yell out songs. It sounds a little hippie. I guess it kinda is.”

LISSY ROSEMONT, JUNIOR LEAGUE BAND

The band shouldn't feel too out of place, because the musicians' spectrum ranges past bluegrass, with jazzy horns in songs like "South Carolina Blues" and the funkier fiddle you've ever heard in "Charm."

"We're definitely part indie-rock too," she said. Rosemont proves there's a place for the banjo in pop-

ular music — she recently played on the Pussycat Dolls (with Missy Elliot) "Watcha Think About That," a gig she landed through a friend who works at the studio where they record. "I thought it was going to be on a Black Eyed Peas song," she said. "It was crazy when I found out Missy Elliot was on it, because I love her music."

But Rosemont is much more focused on her band than becoming the next Pussycat Doll. The band released its second LP, "Mitchell Williams fo' Govena," which was engineered by guitarist Eli Cohn, in late September.

"It was really a full-band effort," she said. "Eli and Will [Waikart, drums] are right up there in terms of commitment and holding down this entire thing." Like all things bluegrass, it's a community affair.

JASON KOEBLER (EXPRESS)

→ 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; with Ted Garber, Shane Gamble; 6 p.m., \$12; 800-995-5566, 930.com. (U St.-Cardozo)

No Such Thing as Normal

A musical explores the complexities and pain of mental illness

STAGE | There's no epiphany at the end of "Next to Normal," but there shouldn't be.

This musical by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey delves into the immensely complex subject of mental illness with a story of a manic-depressive woman (Alice Ripley) and her suburban family.

The story covers her medical treatment, her erratic behavior and the terrible strain the illness places on her husband (J. Robert Spencer) and daughter (Jennifer Damiano). The authors seem to understand that with psychiatry, there are no easy answers.

"Next to Normal" is clearly a work in progress, but it has a few very important things going for it. The first is Ripley's stunning, nuanced performance as depressed housewife Diana. She avoids the disease-of-the-week clichés inherent in the plot and dialogue as nim-



Singer-actress Alice Ripley stars as a mentally ill woman in "Next to Normal."

bly as a figure skater on an ice cube tray, and her voice is all kinds of wonderful.

The other is an adeptly told story that manages to be truly surprising — the creators of "Next to Normal" are able to skillfully reveal their secrets one by one. There are twists you won't see coming, but this is no mystery — instead, it's a mature, melancholy rumination on loss, family and living with mental illness.

FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

→ Arena Stage, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington; through Jan. 18, \$25-\$74; 202-488-3300, arenastage.org. (Crystal City)

OUT & ABOUT | HEAD-SPINNER



MASHUP MAGIC: It won't fill your quotient of the leafy and green, but DJ Dredd can help with your dietary deficiency of classic hip-hop. The Vegemate Restaurant founder and iconic D.C. DJ spins classic tracks at the Black Cat on Friday as part of the dance party "Closer to the Edge."



TIME'S UP: Josef Koudelka's pictures of the Prague Spring are calibrated between documentary and high-art photography.

Bloody Season

A brave photographer documented the 1968 invasion of Prague

GALLERY | The first thing you notice about Josef Koudelka's photographs of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia is the number of people.

People milling about anxiously; people crying; people defiantly waving flags as tanks roll by and through them. Young Russian soldiers, worriedly clutching their weapons as they invade a newly democratized nation; young Czechs, climbing on the backs of Russian tanks to shout their outrage into the seas of smoke as Prague burns.

In 1968, a newly elected liberal leader introduced reforms — free speech, travel and media — in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. As a member country of the Soviet Union, the Czech Republic had agreed to defend any of the other seven countries in the Warsaw Pact from any attack.

The remainder of the Soviet Union perceived the Czech reforms as a threat, and used 50,000 troops and 500 tanks to remove the new leader from power. The Czech Republic did not militarily resist

the attacks, and it remained occupied by Soviet troops until 1990. As part of the initial nine-day invasion, Czech civilians were shot, buildings were burned, and a widespread censorship was imposed to control the Czech media and prevent the West from learning about the invasion.

In 1969, Koudelka's negatives were smuggled anonymously to the West and published by Magnum Photos. His photographs of shot Czechs and burned cities directly contradicted the Soviet bloc's account of the event as a peaceful civilian occupation. The work was considered so sensitive that he fled the country immediately and didn't confess his involvement until decades later.

The photographs, on display at Katzen Arts Center, retain their power. To place them in context, Melissa Harris, curator of the show and editor of Aperture Magazine, included missives from the newly occupied Czech government urging peaceful cooperation. The entryway to the exhibition boasts hundreds of anti-occupation posters made by the Czechs and a timeline of the occupation's seizure of the government radio station. Rather than

editorializing, Harris chose to give viewers the primary documents: "They really don't tell you how to think," she said.

"Invasion '68: Prague" is notable for its lack of a conclusion. After viewing a sea of Czechs and tanks, you're left back at the beginning of the exhibit; it starts in much the same way it ends. Part of this is pragmatic — Koudelka did flee the country. But part of it was a deliberate choice; Koudelka "is smart enough to not try to pretend there's an ending. He just puts it all out there for you," says Harris.

One might ask the relevance of a Cold War invasion from the '60s to today's global, multimedia society. But bearing witness will always have a place. When Koudelka travels to Russia to show his photographs, some Russians claim that the occupation was a liberation or deny that there was any violence, says Harris. By way of reply, he shows them a picture of two Czechs, wrapped in their country's flag, lying dead in a pool of their own blood.

CHRIS COMBS (EXPRESS)

→ Katzen Arts Center, 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW; through Dec. 28, free; 202-885-1300.

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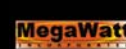
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It's a Real No-Brainer

Battling zombies in Valve's 'Left 4 Dead' provides lively fun

VIDEO GAMES | The zombie apocalypse is here — again.

The world is a wasteland overrun with hordes of the undead, leaving you with a simple goal: Get out alive.

You have to hand it to Valve. Not only is this company the developer behind hits such as the "Half-Life," "Team Fortress" and "Counter-Strike" franchises, it's also behind last year's genre re-defining "Portal." Quite simply, Valve is the developer to beat when it comes to innovative first-person shooters.

With "Left 4 Dead," Valve mixes some technological wizardry with

more than a little survival horror to create a completely different kind of experience, one that delivers some of the most intense co-op multiplayer thrills you'll find in any game released this year.

The four campaigns, each about an hour long, are of the post-apocalyptic variety: They take place in, variously, a burned-out city, an overrun small town, an airport and a rural countryside.

Each is broken down into several chapters that begin and end in safe rooms where players can heal, re-arm and revive fallen teammates. The final chapter in each campaign is marked by a climactic last stand against the incoming undead horde while awaiting rescue.

"Left 4 Dead" provides loads of replay value through the use of a



GHOST TOWN: Players can fight the zombie insurgency alone or — even better — in the company of friends in Valve's entertaining FPS game "Left 4 Dead."

complex system dubbed "The Director." The Director drives the pacing of the game by managing visual

and sound effects, music cues and enemy spawns to portray a dynamic environment that constantly adapt

'Left 4 Dead' mixes some technological wizardry with survival horror.

to player actions.

The goal is to create a game that never plays the same way twice, and this laudable effort produces mixed results. While the system manages to keep the atmosphere taut, the levels are mostly linear affairs with set objectives that never change no matter how many times the player returns to the controls.

But the multiplayer mode is where the game shines. No experience touches having three friends along via split-screen or Xbox Live. Toss in eight-player versus mode — in which four players take the role of the infected — and you're in for a lively experience.

MICAH PEARSON (EXPRESS)

Take 10

THE WASHINGTON POST'S FILM CRITICS TACKLE THIS WEEK'S BOX-OFFICE TOP 10

1 | Four Christmases

There's a good movie here underneath the baloney and ham, but we never get much of a taste. DAN ZAK

2 | The Day the Earth Stood Still

Solemn, sober and efficient, this cautionary science-fiction remake gets the job done. ANN HORNADAY

3 | Twilight

The film makes the human-vampire love affair convincing by finding the flesh-and-blood humanity in Bella and Edward. MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

4 | Bolt

As sprightly and determined as its yappy lead, this new Disney animated film works hard to be all things to all people, with mixed results. DAN KOIS

5 | Australia

This wildly ambitious, luridly indulgent spectacle of romance, action, melodrama and historic revisionism genuflects toward old-school



Klaatu (Keanu Reeves) tries to save the planet in "The Day the Earth Stood Still."

Hollywood schmaltz. ANN HORNADAY

6 | Quantum of Solace

Daniel Craig stars in the newest and most joyless installment of one of cinema's most venerable franchises.

ANN HORNADAY

7 | Nothing Like the Holidays

The ensemble cast of this story about a Puerto Rican-American family at Christmas tries to breathe life into the stereotypes, but they don't have enough to work with. MIKE MAYO

8 | Madagascar: Escape 2

Africa

Visually captivating, this sequel to the 2005 hit suffers from a plethora of subplots and suggestive humor. ANN HORNADAY

9 | Milk

It isn't just a nuanced, stirring portrait of one of the 20th century's most pivotal figures, but of the people he energized. ANN HORNADAY

10 | Transporter 3

Jason Statham handles the silly action with the same brooding intensity of the first films, though it seems increasingly irrelevant. MIKE MAYO

Indies&Arties

Cherchez la Femme

British actress Kristin Scott Thomas seems to be the new Jacqueline Bisset. This isn't a comment on Thomas' talent (or cup size), just an observation that both actresses, facing ripe and confident early middle age saw film opportunities at home shrink and opportunities in France abound. Thomas stars — to multiple accolades in Philippe Claudel's moving study of normalcy, loss and forgiveness, "I've Loved You So Long."

→ AFI SILVER, 8633 COLESVILLE ROAD, SILVER SPRING; OPENS FRI., 301-495-6700. AFI.COM/SILVER/NEW. (SILVER SPRING)

Drawn to Action

In the tradition of Scheherazade and her execution-defying storytelling comes the enchanting, color-saturated tale "Azur and Asmar." Divided by class but brought up as brothers, Azur and Asmar fight separation and eventually depart upon an inevitable quest to find the Fairy of the Djinn. Animator-director Michel Ocelot provides a stunning reminder of the stunning capacity of animation in cinema.

→ E STREET CINEMA, 555 11TH ST. NW; THROUGH THU., 202-452-7672, LANDMARK



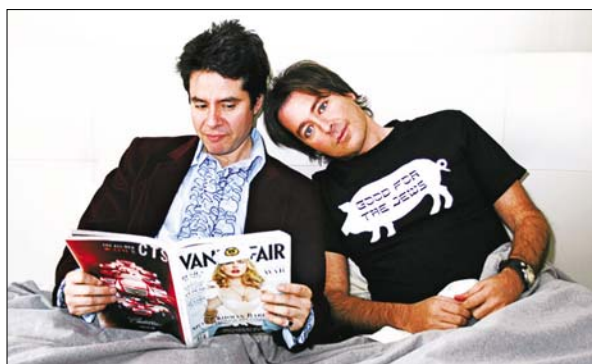
Kristin Scott Thomas stars in the French drama "I've Loved You So Long."

THEATRES.COM. (METRO CENTER)

'Blithe Spirit'

Note to self: Don't mix the workings of an eccentric medium with the misanthropic spirits of dead first wives. Starring Rex Harrison as a cynical author with bad luck, Noel Coward's seance-room comedy "Blithe Spirit" is one of the funniest British films ever made. It will be showing at the National Gallery of Art as part of the gallery's David Lean retrospective.

→ NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, 4TH STREET & CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW; FRI., 2 P.M.; SAT., 4:30 P.M., FREE, 202-842-6799, NGA.GOV. (ARCHIVES-NAVY MEMORIAL)



4 No Songs About Dreidels

You don't have to wear a yarmulke to appreciate the humor of "Good for the Jews." Taking neither ethnicity nor religion seriously, this two-man music-and-humor review provides holiday musical commentary for both the chosen and the gentile at the Birchmere on Sunday.

→ **Birchmere**, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave.; Sun., 7:30 p.m., \$27.50; 703-549-7500, birchmere.com.



3 Short Attention Span Theater

The Neo-Futurists bring "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind," their mind-numbing sprint — 30 plays in 60 minutes — to Woolly Mammoth Theatre. Whatever it is, or may be, you won't get bored.

→ **Woolly Mammoth Theatre**, 641 D St. NW; through Jan. 4, \$30, 202-393-3939. (*Archives-Navy Memorial/Gallery PI-Chinatown*)

Silver Belles

Tired of the seasonal shopping stampede? Put your feet up and enjoy the sweet sounds of "December

Divas," a collection of seasonal music from the likes of Priscilla Cuellar, Marissa Lesch (left), Margo Seibert, Bayla Whitten and Rachel Zampell.

→ **Signature Theatre**, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; Thu., 8:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m., \$30; 800-8551-7328, signature-theatre.org.



5 Se Habla Cha-Cha

Prepare to relish every single comforting line and thrilling dance move — "West Side Story" hits the National Theatre for a monthlong run. This classic singing saga of star-crossed lovers comes with a unique element — Spanish woven throughout the production. It's about time.

→ **National Theatre**, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; through Jan. 17, \$51.50-\$176.50, 800-447-7400, nationaltheatre.org. (*Metro Center*)



top stops

W E E N D



Like a Record

Appearing at the 9:30 Club on Friday for a late-night holiday extravaganza, Tittsworth (first name Jesse, for what it's worth) indulges in creative musical mixing. The local standout DJ and man about town provides the always fluctuating but always fun and frenetic live show; you provide the booty-shaking.

→ **9:30 Club**, 815 V St. NW; Fri., 11 p.m., \$15; 800-955-5566, 930.com. (*U St.-Cardozo*)

The Scene

Sound

→ THURSDAY

9:30 Club: Corey Smith, Shane Hines & the Trance, 7 p.m., \$15.

Birchmere: The Bacon Brothers, Krista Detor, 7:30 p.m., sold out.

Black Cat: Deleted Scenes, Exit Clov, La Strada, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

Blues Alley: Marion Meadows, 8 & 10 p.m., \$25.

DC9: Echo Boom, Violet Says 5, Belikos, 8 p.m., \$8.

George Mason University: 3 Doors Down, 7:30 p.m., \$29.50-\$55.

Iota: Vince Scheuerman (Army of Me), Justin Jones, 9 p.m., \$10.

Jammin' Java: Rude Buddha, Ghosts of Pluto, Cerca Trova, 8 p.m., \$10.

Kennedy Center: NSO: Handel's "Messiah," 7 p.m., \$20-\$80.

Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage: Gospel Celebration: The Sweet Heaven Kings, 6 p.m., free.

The Red and the Black: Karate Coyote, International Graduate University, Laughing Man, 9 p.m., \$8.

Signature Theatre: December Divas, 8:30 p.m., \$30.

→ FRIDAY

9:30 Club: Tittsworth, Nadaström, Will Eastman, Bob Jong III, Ken Lazee, 11 p.m., \$15. The Last Poets, 7 p.m., \$25.

Iota: Last Train Home, Kevin Gordan, 9 p.m., \$13.

Jammin' Java: Holiday Show with Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun, 8 p.m., \$20.

Kennedy Center: NSO: Handel's "Messiah," 8 p.m., \$20-\$80.

Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage: Holiday Vaudeville: Sean Grissom, the Alexandria Kleztet, Rod Ferrone, 6 p.m., free.

The Red and the Black: E Joseph, Flo Anito, 9 p.m., \$8.

Rock and Roll Hotel: Drop Electric, Triflava, Godisheus, Evil Empire, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

Signature Theatre: December Divas, 7:30 p.m., \$30.

Velvet Lounge: PRV Trio, Snack Truck, 9 p.m., \$8.

→ SATURDAY

9:30 Club: CSS, 7 p.m., \$20.

Birchmere: 1964: The Tribute, 7:30 p.m.,

Continued on E12

WeekendPass Entertainment

TheScene

Continued from E11

\$35.

Black Cat: Rhett Miller, Joe Pug, 9 p.m., \$15.**Iota:** Last Train Home, Kevin Gordan, 9 p.m., \$13.**Jammin' Java:** 2nd Annual Rocknoceros Holiday Show and Singalong, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m., \$10 ages 2 and up. A My Favorite Highway Christmas with Chelsea Lee, 7 & 9 p.m., \$15.**Kennedy Center:** NSO: Handel's "Messiah," 8 p.m., \$20-\$80.**Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage:** Holiday Vaudeville: Sean Grissom, the Alexandria Klezmer, Rod Ferrone, 6 p.m., free.**Lisner:** Jim Brickman holiday concert, 8 p.m., \$52.50, GW students, \$42.50.**The Red and the Black:** Amateur Hour, Boxcar Collision, 9 p.m., \$8.**Signature Theatre:** December Divas, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., \$30.**State Theatre:** BOB, 7 p.m., \$12-\$15.

→ SUNDAY

9:30 Club: Darkest Hour, the Red Chord,

'90S ALT-ROCK | ADDRESS TO THE NATION



NOTHING EVER GOES AWAY: Providing hipster kryptonite since the 1990s, Mississippi alt-rockers 3 Doors Down bring their face-straining rock 'n' roll to the Patriot Center on Thursday night. These guys haven't been the loser in a long time, and the repeat platinum offenders are in the middle of promoting their latest chart-topping, self-titled release.

Through the Eyes of the Dead, Skeleton-witch, Rose Funeral, 5 p.m., \$15.

Birchmere: Good for the Jews, 7:30 p.m., \$27.50.**DC9:** Noliday show with Justin Trawick, Derek James, Victoria Vox, Rene Moffatt, Laura Tsaggaris, Laura Brino, Jason Ager, Jason Masi, Molly Hagen, 7 p.m., \$8.**Iota:** Last Train Home, Kevin Gordan, 2 p.m., \$13. Nan Irick memorial show with Middle Distance Runner, Greenland, Revival, 8:30 p.m.**Jammin' Java:** A My Favorite Highway Christmas with Chelsea Lee, 7 & 9 p.m., \$15.**Kennedy Center:** National Symphony Orchestra: Handel's "Messiah," 1 p.m., \$20-\$80.**Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage:** Elisabeth von Trapp, 6 p.m., free.**The Red and the Black:** Another Brother Black Falls Band, 9 p.m., \$6.

Sight

Aaron Gallery: "19th Annual Small & Miniature Show," through Dec. 31. 1717 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-234-3311, aaron.gallerydc.com.

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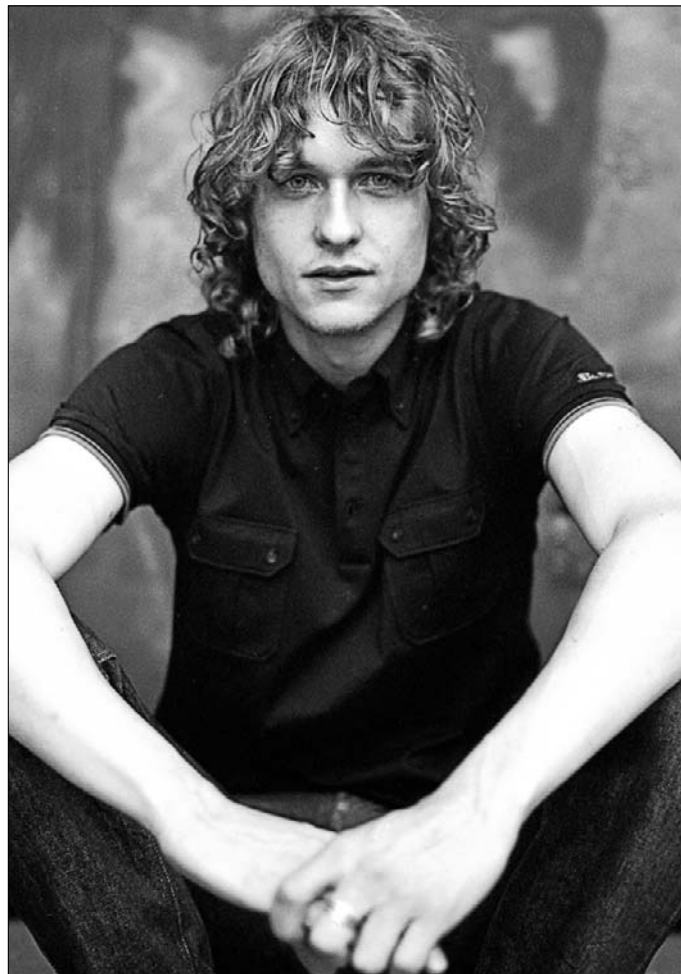
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ACOUSTIC ROCK | ALONE AT LAST



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PEACE ON EARTH: It's been a loud and tiring year for D.C. indie rockers Army of Me, with a frenetic touring schedule, mainstream recognition and a spot on the soundtrack for the Olympics. Fittingly, frontman Vince Scheuerman winds the year down with a peaceful acoustic solo set on Thursday at Iota.

683-1780, theartleague.com.

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: "Seascapes: Tryon & Sugimoto," through Jan. 25.

"Garden and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Johpur," sumptuous paintings from India, through Jan. 4. "Perspectives: Anish Kapoor," through July 19. 1050 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000.

ARTiculate Gallery: "My World, Your World, Our World," architectural art of D.C. landmarks, ongoing. 1100 16th Street

NW; 202-261-0204, wvsarts.org.

Conner Contemporary Art: "Zoe Charlton: Family," large-format drawings.

"David Levinthal: War," photos of our latest war. "Gabriel de la Mora," self-portrait video art, through Jan. 3. 1358-60 Florida Ave. NE; 202-588-8750, conner-contemporary.com.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: "Richard Avedon: Portraits of Power," through Jan. 25.

Continued on E14

Addison/Ripley: "New Paintings," work by Edith Kuhnle, through Jan. 10. 1670 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-338-5180, addisonipleyfineart.com.

Alexandria Black History Museum: "Childhood Memories in Miniature: African American Dollhouses," miniatures by Sharon J. Frazier and Linwood M. Smioth, through Jan. 24. 902 Wythe St., Alexandria; 703-838-4356.

American Association for the Advancement of Science: "Science Covers and Sculptures," original artwork appearing on the cover of Science magazine and science-based sculpture, through Jan. 9. 12th & H streets NW; 202-326-6400, aaas.org.

LAST CHANCE American University/Katzen Arts: "Calentamiento Global," organized by the Association of Ibero-American Cultural Attachés, through Sun. "Onthaasting: About Spare Time and Slower Worlds," thought-provoking Belgian video art, through Sun. "Jae Ko: Ten Year Retrospective," through Sun. "Invasion '68: Prague," photographs by Josef Koudelka of the 1968 Soviet occupation of the Czech city, through Dec. 28. "Jack Boul," scaled prints, drawings and paintings by the former AU professor, through Dec. 28. "Dalya Luttwak," welded metal sculptures by the Israeli artist, through Jan. 18. Katzen Arts Center, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-885-2787.

Arlington Arts Center: "Unlimited Edition," a juried show of works in large, unnumbered editions, through Jan. 17. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, arlingtonartscenter.org.

Art Whino Gallery: "Skin Deep," kitsch-adjacent paintings about outer beauty by Jason Snyder, through Jan. 17. 173 Waterfront St., National Harbor; 301-567-8210, artwhino.com.

The Art League Gallery: "Virtue, Sin and the Balance Within," works by ceramicist Carlos Beltran Baldiviezo, through Jan. 5. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-

venues

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→ **BLACK CAT:** 1811 14TH ST. NW; 202-667-7960, BLACKCATDC.COM.

→ **BLUES ALLEY:** 1073 WISCONSIN AVE. NW; 202-337-414, BLUESALLEY.COM.

→ **DC 9:** 1940 9TH ST. NW; 202-483-5000, DCNINE.COM.

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→ **JAMMIN' JAVA:** 227 MAPLE AVENUE E., VIENNA, VA; 703-255-1566, JAMMINAVA.COM.

→ **BIRCHMERE MUSIC HALL:** 3701 MT. VERNON AVE., ALEXANDRIA; 703-549-7500, BIRCHMERE.COM.

→ **KENNEDY CENTER:** 2700 F ST. NW; 202-467-4600, KENNEDY-CENTER.ORG.

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Continued from E13

"Wounded Cities: Photographs by Leo Rubinien," through Feb. 16, 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700, corcoran.org.

Cross MacKenzie Ceramic Arts: "Suspended Still Life," ceramic wall compositions by David Hicks, through Jan. 3. 1054 31st St. NW; 202-333-7970.

DAR Museum: "Return to Toyland," This playful exhibition celebrates childhood of the past with late 19th- and early 20th-century toys, through Feb. 28. 1776 D St. NW; 202-879-3241.

PHOTOGRAPHY | POINTS OF CONTACT



ROB McDONALD

THE WHOLE IN THE PART: Kathleen Ewing Gallery hosts "Three Photographers/Three Publications," in which Alex MacLean, Rob McDonald, above, and Rosamond Purcell tease beauty from the simplest elements and raise questions about human interference in natural processes.

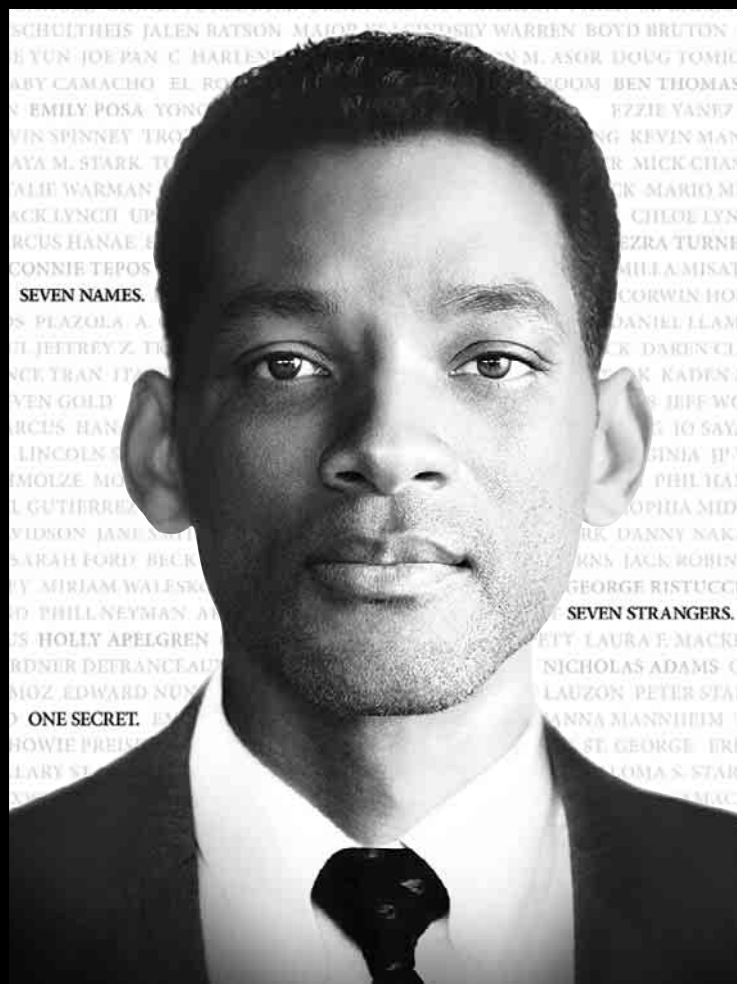
D.C. Arts Center: "Pat Goslee: Flow," abstract paintings exploring the fine line between the physical and spiritual world, through Jan. 4. 2438 18th St. NW; 202-462-7833, dcartscenter.org.

DEA Museum: "Good Medicine, Bad Behavior: Drug Diversion in America," ongoing exhibits, through Dec. 31. 700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington; 202-307-3463, deamuseum.org.

District Fine Arts: "Sidney Lawrence — Recent Works," oil paintings and drawings, and an illustrated travel diary, through Jan. 17. 1639 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-328-9100, dfaonline.com.

LAST CHANCE Edison Place Gallery: "Aquifer," works by 35 artists exploring the

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artistic and spiritual attributes of water, through Fri.. 702 8th St. NW; 202-234-7103, wpadc.org.

LAST CHANCE Flashpoint Gallery: "Elena Volkova: Airscapes," photographs from the windows of airplanes, through Sat. 916 G St. NW; 202-315-1305, flashpointdc.org.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Breaking News: Renaissance Journalism and the Birth of the Newspaper," through Jan. 31. Shakespeare's First Folio and other works on permanent display, 201 East Capitol St.

SE; 202-544-7077, folger.edu.

Foundry Gallery: "December Members Show," featuring works by 12 artists, through Dec. 28. 1314 18th St. NW; 202-463-0203, foundry-gallery.org.

Fraser Gallery: "Six Photographers," a group exhibition featuring six photographers who recently published books, including Joyce Tenneson, Maxwell MacKenzi and Washington Post columnist Frank Van Riper, through Jan. 3. 770 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 301-718-9651, thefrasergallery.com.

Freer Gallery of Art: "Guests of the Hills: Travelers and Recluses in Chinese Landscape Painting," through Feb. 22. "Win-slow Homer: Four Views of Nature,"

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FOR LAUGHS: "Winter Radio Theater" brings a set of Donner and Blitzen-fast improv sending up cherished holiday traditions to DCAC on Saturday.

through May 25. Jefferson Drive & 12th Street SW; 202-633-1000, asia.si.edu.

G Fine Art: "All at Once," paintings by Maggie Michael, through Jan. 3. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-462-1601, gfineartdc.com.

LAST CHANCE Gallery Neptune: "Another Level," paintings by John Aquilino, through Sat. 5001 Wilson Lane, Bethesda; 301-718-0809, galleryneptune.com.

LAST CHANCE Goethe-Institut: "A Disenchanted Playroom," color portraits of children by Wolfram Hahn critique contemporary television culture, through Fri. 812 7th St. NW; 202-289-1200.

LAST CHANCE Govinda Gallery: "Kaleidoscope Eyes: A Day in the Life of

Sgt. Pepper," rare photographs taken at Abbey Road Studios in 1967, through Dec. 23. 1227 34th St. NW; 202-333-1180.

H&F Fine Arts: "Suspended Cosmos," Alan Binstock's translucent sculptures. "Life's Many Layers," layered images inspired by micro and macro worlds by Joan Belmar, both through Jan. 11. 3311 Rhode Island Ave., Mount Rainier, Md.; 301-887-0080, hffinearts.com.

Healing Arts Gallery: "Visions of Paradise: National Geographic Contemporary Masters," through Jan. 2. 1632 U St. NW; 202-483-8600, smithfarm.com.

LAST CHANCE Hemphill Fine Art: "Drive-In Theaters & Portraits," tricky but
Continued on E16

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Continued from E15

gorgeous photographs by Hiroshi Sugimoto. "The Projectionist," movie-mad drawings and photographs by Kendall Messick, through Sat. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, hemphillfinearts.com.

LAST CHANCE Hillyer Art Space:

"Known Unknowns," a photography group show curated by Amanda Maddox in conjunction with Fotoweeek D.C., through Sun. "The Burden of Representation: Contemporary Iranian Photography," through Dec. 21. 9 Hillyer Court NW; 202-333-0680, wpadc.org.

Hirshhorn: "Strange Bodies: Figurative

Works From the Hirshhorn Collection," through early 2010. "Ways of Seeing: Guiseppe and Giovanna Panza," through Jan. 7. "Directions: Terence Gower, Public Spirit" features plans for Hirshhorn's art-based town in the wilderness of Canada, through March 22. 7th Street & Indepen-

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YEAH, THEY WRITE SONGS — SO? Melodic death metal doesn't have to be an oxymoron. Washington's loudest band, Darkest Hour, proves that point at the 9:30 Club on Sunday. The sound has been 13 years in the making as D.C.'s finest purveyors of the musical distinction are currently in the process of crafting a new studio album.

dence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, hirshhorn.org.

Historical Society of Washington:

"March on Washington: 45th Anniversary," "Photographs of the Civil Rights Movement." 801 K St. NW; 202-383-1850.

Honfleur Gallery: "Fragile," work by

John K. Lawson that was damaged by the floods of Hurricane Katrina or made from materials salvaged from wreckage left in the storm's aftermath, through Jan. 2. 1241 Good Hope Road SE; 202-889-5000.

International Spy Museum: Permanent

displays of wristwatch cameras, poison gas guns, a World War II Enigma cipher machine and other coding machines, disguises, etc. 800 F St. NW; 202-393-7798, spymuseum.org.

Irvine Contemporary: "Aspect:Ratio I,"

small-format paintings, through Jan. 10. 1412 14th St. NW; 202-332-8767, irvine-contemporary.com.

Kathleen Ewing Gallery: "Birth Place,"

photographs by Rob McDonald, through *Continued on E20*



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THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(100 140 230 340 430 515) 630 715 800 900 950 1030
DELGO (PG) (205 415) 710 1000
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (200 445) 730 1005
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (110 345) 705 930
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D 735 PM 1025 PM
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (130 PM) 410 PM
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1255 PM 440 PM) 810 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (240 530) 745 1015
OC & DA: TWILIGHT (PG-13) (400 PM) 935 PM
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (115 PM) 650 PM
BOLT (PG) (150 420) 700 920
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (210 500) 740 1020
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (120 330) 620 850
GLENN BECK'S THE CHRISTMAS SWEATER - ENCORE (NR) 800 PM

MAJESTIC STADIUM 20

900 Ellsworth Dr. Silver Spring, MD 240-393-4826
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1215 100 245 330 515) 600 745 830 1015
RW & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1135 200 430) 715 940
MILK (R) - ID REQ'D (115 410) 705 955
DELGO (PG) (120 335 550) 810 1025
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1250 305 545) 800 1040
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 215 445) 720 1000
RW: CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 300 530) 815 1045
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 230 500) 740 1030
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (1235 130 315 405 540) 625 750 840 1010 1050
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (140 400) 615 835 1055
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1210 345) 710 1035
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1150 240 535) 820 1055
BOLT (PG) (1145 210 435) 655 920
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1140 220 455) 730 1005
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG-13) (1230 235 450) 700 925
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (110 350) 605 825 1055
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1245 255 510) 735 945
SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG-13) (145 420) 650 935

ROYALE STADIUM 14

6505 America Blvd. Hyattsville, MD 301-864-3456
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1200 100 230 400 500) 700 730 930 1000
RW & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1200 300 530) 800 1030
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1240 310 535) 755 1015
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 250 520) 750 1020
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 325) 655 940
RW & DA: AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (105 PM 430 PM) 805 PM
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (1215 240 515) 735 955
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (1225 235 450) 720 950
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1255 355) 740 1025
BOLT (PG) (1205 225 445) 705 925
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1250 320) 715 945
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 305 525) 745 1005
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1235 245 455) 710 920

BETHESDA 10

7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 559#
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1215 200 245 430 515) 700 745 930 1010
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (100 320 540) 800 1020
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (1215 245 515) 745 1010
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1200 330) 700 1050
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (1220 240 510) 730 950
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (145 430) 715 1000
BOLT (PG) (200 415) 630 845
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1240 300 530) 800 1030
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (100 310 520) 730 940

BOWIE STADIUM 14

15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
GLENN BECK'S THE CHRISTMAS SWEATER - ENCORE (NR) 800 PM
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (200 445) 730 1015
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(100 145 230 315 415 500 545) 700 745 830 945 1015
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (115 200 400 445) 715 945
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (215 500) 730 1000
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (245 515) 815 1030
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (230 PM) 600 PM 930 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (115 330 545) 815 1030
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (130 430) 715 1000
BOLT 3D - \$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (145 430) 645 930
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (245 515) 745 1030
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (100 400) 645 900

GALLERY PLACE STADIUM 14

701 Seventh St. NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1200 1230 120 240) 330 415 520 630 715 800 915 1000 1040
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1140 205) 435 700 930 1210
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 225) 500 740 1020
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (1240) 315 545 815 1045
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (1210 235 505 730 1005
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1145) 310 640 1015
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (1250) 325 535 750 1010
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (115) 400 645 950
BOLT 3D - \$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (1150 210 430) 650 910
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1220 300) 540 810 1035
OC & DA: ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (245 PM) 1025 PM
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 PM) 515 PM 755 PM
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) - ID REQ'D (100) 350 655 940

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12

671 N Glebe Rd 800-FANDANGO 377#
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) (130 410) 700 940
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (230 PM 515 PM) 800 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (200 300 430 530) 650 750 910 1010
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (250 350) 630 730 1010
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (120 420) 720 1020
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (115 215 400 500) 640 740 930 1030

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16

3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (225 500) 750 1030
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(120 200 240 400 440 520) 640 720 800 920 1000
DELGO (PG) (130 355) 630 900
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (110 150 410 450) 650 730 940 1020
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (245 PM 530 PM) 810 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (1210 250 430 510) 700 740 930 1010
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (1250 325) 600 840
OC & DA: AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (315 PM) 655 PM
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (310 PM) 610 PM 910 PM
BOLT 3D - \$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (115 345) 620 850
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (135 420) 710 950
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D 835 PM
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (100 PM 335 PM) 610 PM

KINGSTOWNE STADIUM 16

5910 Kingstowne Towne Center 703-822-4956
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
RW & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(135 420) 700 940
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1200 1245 235 320 505) 610 800 850 1035
DELGO (PG) (1235 255) 645 935
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1215 245 515) 745 1020
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1255 335) 655 950
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (100 340) 750 1025
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (1200 105 220 330 435) 625 735 900 955
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (1240 310) 650 920
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1230 PM 405 PM) 815 PM
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (115 410) 720 1015
BOLT (PG) (1205 225 445) 710 930
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (120 355) 730 1010
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (125 350) 805 1030
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1155 205 425) 640 905

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20

45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1250 130 210 250 330 410 450 530) 610 650 730 810 850 930 1010
DELGO (PG) (1140 200 440) 710 925
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1200 230 500) 725 955
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 310) 625 900
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 235 520) 755 1025
OC & DA: AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (255 PM) 950 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (1220 115 305 350 525) 700 750 920 1020
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1130 100 430) 620 800
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (135 420) 715 945
BOLT (PG) (110 345) 640 910
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1235 120 325 415) 630 720 940 1030
BOLT 3D - \$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (1215 245 510) 740 1010
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1150 1255 225 335 505) 645 745 915 1015
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1240 315) 615 855

FOX STADIUM 16

22875 Crawford Plz. Asbun, VA 703-957-1035
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(130 215 400 445) 630 715 900 945
RW: NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (240 510) 745 1015
RW & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(300 530) 800 1030
DELGO (PG) (135 420) 720 950
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (210 450) 740 1025
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (115 245 345 500) 615 730 830 1000
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (150 420) 645 910
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (310 PM) 640 PM 1010 PM
BOLT (PG) (100 200 330 430) 710 940
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (110 410) 600 700 805 1005
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (140 415) 650 930
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (250 520) 750 1020
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (120 340) 620 840

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10

4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
GLENN BECK'S THE CHRISTMAS SWEATER - ENCORE (NR) 800 PM
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(130 245 415 515) 700 745 930 1015
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL - DP (PG-13) ★
(1255 325) 600 830
DELGO (PG) (1255 325) 600 830
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (225 445) 705 920
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (140 420) 740 1020
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (230 450) 620 945
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (145 435) 735 1030
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (235 510) 750 1025
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (240 PM 455 PM)

MANASSAS STADIUM 14

11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#
Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★
(1200 1245 130 245 345 430 515) 645 730 815 915 1000 1045
DELGO (PG) (1145 200 445) 700 930
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (115 415) 715 1015
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 410) 650 940
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (150 420) 720 1010
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (215 530) 800 1040
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1120 250) 620 945
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) (1130 230 500) 745 1030
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1215 315) 615 900
BOLT 3D - \$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (100 330) 600 830
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1230 350) 710 950
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (145 400) 630 845

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THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

(PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00
DELGO (PG)

(I) 12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)

(I) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40

CADILLAC RECORDS (R)

(I) 12:10, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13)

12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00

TWILIGHT (PG-13)

12:10, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50

BOLT (PG)

12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40

MADAGASCAR:

ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)

12:20, 2:50

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R)

5:00, 7:30

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BETHESDA ROW

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Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #805

BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)

1:45, 4:30, 9:55

DOUBT (PG-13)

1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:15, 7:15,

8:45, 9:45

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)

1:00, 2:00, 3:40, 4:40, 6:30, 7:30,

9:15, 10:10

MILK (R)

1:10, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:50, 9:50

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED

PAJAMAS (PG-13)

4:15, 10:15

A CHRISTMAS TALE (NR)

1:05, 7:05

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MILK (R)

5:00, 7:30

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7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth. 301-767-9555
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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)

3:10, 5:20, 7:30

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)

3:00, 5:00, 7:15

TWILIGHT (PG-13)

2:30, 5:00, 7:25

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MILK (R)

9:50, 10:15, 12:20, 1:15, 3:15, 4:00,

7:20, 7:40, 9:50, 10:05

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)

9:45, 10:00, 12:10, 12:30, 2:35, 4:30,

5:05, 7:30, 7:50, 9:45, 10:10

AUSTRALIA (PG-13)

9:40, 1:00, 4:15, 8:00

I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13)

9:55, 2:25, 7:10

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R)

12:05, 4:50, 9:25

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM

DOUBT (PG-13)

12:45, 2:15, 3:15, 4:45, 5:45, 7:15,

8:15, 9:45

AZUR & ASMAR (PG)

1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50

MILK (R)

12:30, 1:45, 3:30, 4:45, 6:30, 7:45,

9:30

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)

2:00, 3:45, 5:00, 8:00, 9:45

WERE THE WORLD MINE (NR)

1:15, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK (R)

1:00, 7:00

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IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL:
THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13) /
2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) / 12:01 AM

YES MAN (PG13) / 12:01 AM

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) / 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 4:45,

6:45, 7:15, 9:15, 9:45, 11:35

DELGO (PG) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:35

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 1:25, 2:00, 4:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55

AUSTRALIA (PG13) 1:05, 2:25, 4:35, 6:05, 8:05, 9:35

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 1:00, 2:15, 3:15, 4:35, 5:35, 6:55, 7:55,

9:10, 10:10, 11:25

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 2:05, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50

BOLT (PG) 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:20, 3:50, 4:20, 6:35, 7:05, 9:20, 9:50

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 1:40, 2:10, 4:25, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30,

10:00, 11:45

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 2:45, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40

ROLE MODELS (R) 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) / 2:25, 5:10, 7:35, 10:05

CADILLAC RECORDS (R) 1:35, 2:20, 4:30, 5:05, 7:10, 7:40, 9:45, 10:15

CADILLAC RECORDS (R) 1:35, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway
1 (888) AMC-4FUN

IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL:
THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 12:45, 3:10

GLENN BECK'S "THE CHRISTMAS SWEATER"

ENCORE (NR-NOT RATED) 8:00

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 2:40, 5:30, 8:20

DELGO (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 7:10, 10:00

AUSTRALIA (PG13) 1:00, 4:55, 9:00

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 12:40, 3:00, 5:25, 7:40, 10:25

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15

BOLT (PG) 2:15, 4:40

TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:35, 10:35

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:30

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 1:55, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30

ROLE MODELS (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

CADILLAC RECORDS (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) / 1:45, 3:00, 4:20, 5:35,

7:00, 8:15, 9:40

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00,

9:40

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 5:05

AUSTRALIA (PG13) 3:15, 6:50, 10:25

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 1:10, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:20

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 2:35, 7:35

TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:25, 8:00, 10:30

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55

ROLE MODELS (R) 2:45

AMC SELECT

FROST/NIXON (R) / 1:00, 1:55, 3:35, 4:50, 6:30, 7:45, 9:30, 10:30

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:05, 2:20, 3:55, 5:10, 6:45, 8:00, 9:35

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) / 2:30, 5:00, 7:30

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

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703-998-4262

IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL:
THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13) /
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) / 12:01 AM

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) / 12:01 AM

YES MAN (PG13) / 12:01 AM

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) / 12:45, 2:00, 3:30,

4:50, 6:20, 7:40, 9:10, 10:30, 11:50

DELGO (PG) 2:10, 4:35, 7:05, 9:20

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:25

AUSTRALIA (PG13) 1:30, 5:00, 8:30

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 1:35, 4:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:25, 10:20

BOLT (PG) 2:45, 5:20

TWILIGHT (PG13) 12:55, 1:50, 3:45, 4:40, 6:35, 7:30, 9:30, 10:15

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35

ROLE MODELS (R) 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:25

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) / 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:45

CADILLAC RECORDS (R) 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) / 1:50, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20,
7:00, 8:00

DELGO (PG) 3:30, 5:40, 7:50

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 5:10

BOLT (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 6:50

AMC SELECT

MILK (R) / 4:00, 7:10

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) / 2:30, 4:50, 7:20

CHANGELING (R) 2:10, 7:30

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:40

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 12:05, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 12:05, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25

BOLT (PG) 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45

TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 1:2

WeekendPass Dining

Eating Around

DOG'S DINNER Humane Cuisine

The Washington Humane Society will host its seventh annual Sugar & Champagne Affair hosted by Todd and Ellen Gray of Equinox. Guests will be treated to sparkling wines, champagne and desserts from local restaurants such as Brasserie Beck, Hook and Indique Heights. Their four-legged friends will also be able to snack on some gourmet treats. For those wanting the VIP (does that stand for Very Important Pooch?) treatment, pay an extra \$40 to watch chef demos. And you thought chocolate and dogs didn't mix. **STEFANIE GANS**

→ *Ritz Carlton, 1150 22nd St. NW; Jan. 28, 7-9 p.m., \$85, VIP \$125; 202-723-5730 (ext. 204). (Foggy Bottom-GWU)*



IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS: Miniature desserts are going for a song — well, for three bucks each — at ICI Urban Bistro.

SMALL BUT DEADLY Tiny Temptations at ICI

Quick, Mom and Dad aren't looking — order dessert for lunch. And get this: You don't have to pick just

one. ICI Urban Bistro will supply you with just enough sugar to get you through the afternoon. Between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., choose from a rotating menu of mini desserts.

Temptations in tiny glasses include crème de menthe mousse, double chocolate torte and lemon pie. One is \$3, but who are we kidding? We'll take three for \$9. It's

OK to be a little naughty. (SG)

→ *ICI Urban Bistro, 806 15th St. NW; 202-730-8700, iciurbanbistro.com. (McPherson Square)*

ECONOMIC PIE CHART More Pizza for Less Dough

Not all the economic news is bad news. Radius Pizza just dropped prices on its pizzas, toppings and many other items, with large pizzas jumping down as much as \$3.

But don't expect the taste to plummet. General manager Kenneth Bush noticed the quality difference between pizzas served in-house and those delivered. At home, moisture-soaked vegetables made for a soggy pie. To spare patrons' wallets and improve the delivered pizzas, Radius will trim the amount of toppings and also lower prices. (SG)

→ *Radius Pizza, 3155 Mt. Pleasant St. NW; 202-234-0808, radiusdc.com.*

WHAT'S EATING YOU?

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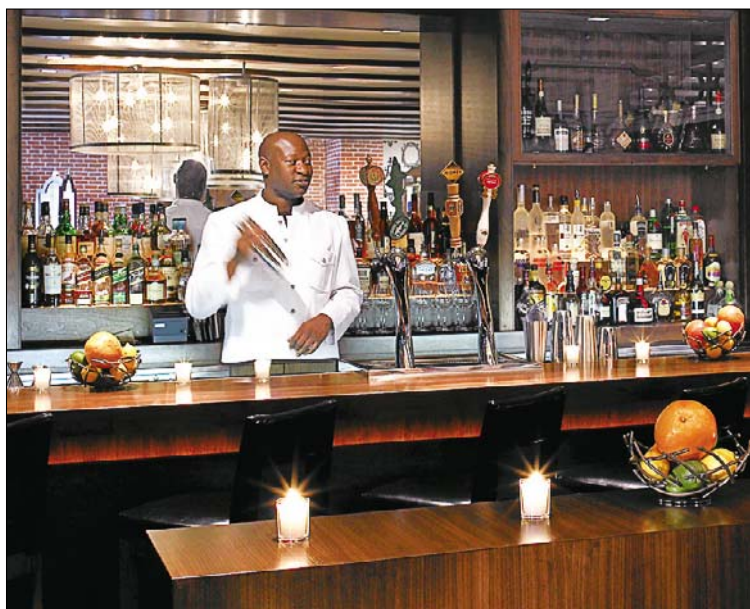
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ENTERTAINMENT

Dining | WeekendPass



BIG NIGHT: A late reservation gives diners a chance to linger at Jackson's 20, left, and enjoy new menu items at Domaso, right.

Ring in the New

D.C. restaurants offer New Year's Eve deals on memorable meals

As the ball drops in Times Square, there are three facts you can count on: Ryan Seacrest is wearing too much makeup, a lot of the people in Times Square are screaming because they need to pee and, try as you might, there's a millisecond when you believe how you've spent the evening foreshadows what the next 365 days will bring. Never fear, dears: D.C.-area restaurants will help you fight this gut instinct by serving spectacular New Year's Eve menus. If anything, expect 2009 to be very — urp! — full.

LESS MEAT, MORE FÊTE

Holy (un)cow! Logan Circle's Vegetate serves its New Year's menu a la carte (6:30 to 7 p.m. seatings) and offers up the whole four-course shebang — including roasted beet carpaccio as well as sweet potato and wild mushroom ravioli — at later seatings (9:30 to 10 p.m., \$50) as a DJ spins rare grooves and funk.
→ 1414 9th St. NW; 202-232-4585. (Mount Vernon Square)

A GRAPE NIGHT

Taberna del Alabardero's five-course Spanish meal (9 to 10:30 p.m. seatings, \$98) is succulent enough with

its foie gras terrine and roasted suckling pig, but what seals the deal is the restaurant's New Year's grape ceremony. Guests receive 12 grapes to pop one per each second for the last 12 of 2008. It brings good luck — and hilarity.

→ 1776 I St. NW; 202-429-2200. (Faragut West)

SPEAKING OF GOOD FORTUNE ...

Up your karmic ante by dining at Oya — its street address is a fortuitous 777, after all. And if you're still concerned about, uh, getting lucky, Sex sparkling wine will be available for purchase by the glass or bottle. Of course, there are three-course (5 to 8 p.m., \$28) and five-course seatings (8:30 to 10 p.m., \$95) with the likes of tuna tempura rolls and grilled beef potato pot stickers.

→ 777 9th St. NW; 202-393-1400. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)

BE A SMOOTH OPERATOR

If you're not feeling like a high roller after dining on grilled flat-iron steak as part of a three-course (\$75) or a salt cod potato stew in a five-course (\$95) Italian supper at Domaso (5:30 to 10 p.m. seatings), can we borrow a few bucks? Those tighter of fist can head to the adjacent lounge where DJ EZGruuv plays disco and tribal tuneage starting at 10:30 p.m. for a very chic price (free).

→ 1121 N. 19th St., Arlington; 703-351-

1211. (Rosslyn)

ROOM WITH A VIEW

Wall-to-wall windows and soaring ceilings create a dazzling atmosphere at 2941, and it's all backed up by Chef Bertrand Chemel's delectable three-course (4 to 7 p.m. seatings, \$95; butternut squash soup and venison loin) and six-course offerings (8 to 10:30 p.m., \$140; ricotta ravioli or spiced squab breast terrine).

→ 2941 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church; 703-270-1500.

RING IN A DEAL

Thrifty folks may opt for Rosa Mexicano's a la carte menu (5 to 8 p.m.), but if you can hang on until 9:30 p.m., the Latin spot seats its \$45 four-course with Mexican habanero jumbo lump crab cakes and rack of lamb. A DJ cranks out Latin-flavored house through midnight.

→ 575 7th St. NW; 202-783-5522. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)

FOR GUYS AND DOLLS

Jackson 20's "Roaring 20s"-themed dinner — shrimp cocktails, roasted lobster — can be ordered a la carte or prix fix (5 to 10:30 p.m., \$65). Highlights include the "Dirty 20" cocktail — a blend of gin, vermouth, olive and cucumber.

→ 480 King St., Alexandria; 703-842-2790. KRIS CORONADO (EXPRESS)

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GALLERY | DOWNSIZING



CURTIS IRVINE

TINY TREASURES: Smaller is better, or at least that's the philosophy behind the latest exhibition at Irvine Contemporary Gallery. "Aspect: Ratio 1" celebrates and highlights 11 artists rejecting a proclivity toward oversize canvases and instead focusing on small formats and intimate works.

TheScene

Continued from E16

Jan. 31. "Egg & Nest," photographs by Rosamond Purcell, through Jan. 31. "Over: The American Landscape at the Tipping Point," photographs by Alex MacLean, through Jan. 31. 1767 P St. NW; 202-328-0955.

Koshland Science Museum: "Global Warming Facts & Our Future," "Infectious Disease: Evolving Challenges to Human Health," "Wonders of Science," ongoing. 6th & E streets NW; 202-334-1201, koshland-science-museum.org.

Library of Congress: "Creating the United States," American treasures including a draft of the Declaration of Independence, ongoing. 101 1st St. SE; 202-707-4604. loc.gov.

LAST CHANCE McLean Project for the Arts: "Aimee Helen Koch: Undressed," visually arresting photographs depict clothes, but not the wearer. "Georgia Goldberg: Light, Shadow and Air," an entire gallery installation focusing on making the invisible visible. "Ten Year Chip: Photographs by Michael Mendez," photographs using experimental techniques, all through Sat. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean; 703-790-1953.

LAST CHANCE National Academy of Sciences: "An Iconography of Contagion: 20th-Century Health Posters and the Visual Representation of Infectious Disease," through Fri. "Tornadoes: Paintings by John Brosio," through Jan. 19. 2100 C St. NW; 202-334-2436, nasonline.org.

National Aquarium: Celebrate America's aquatic treasures in this beautiful refur-

bished underground space, ongoing. 14th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-482-2825, nationalaquarium.com.

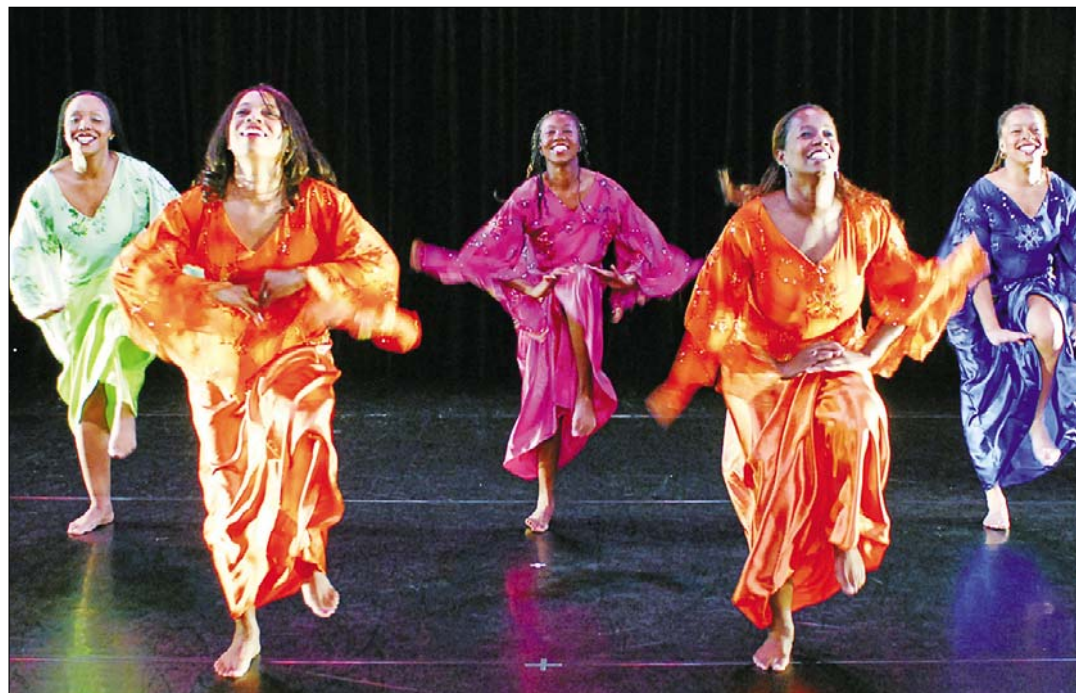
National Building Museum: "Green Community" explores communities united by a quest for ecological sustainability, through Oct. 25, 2009. "Cityscapes Revealed: Highlights From the Collection," "Investigating Where We Live," "Washington, Symbol and City," ongoing. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, nbm.org.

National Gallery of Art, East Building: "George de Forest Brush: The Indian Paintings," through Jan. 4. "Small French Paintings," permanent exhibit. "Pompeii and the Roman Villa: Art and Culture Around the Bay of Naples," through March 22. 4th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-737-4215, nga.gov. "Jan Lievens: A Dutch Master Rediscovered," opens Sun., through Jan. 11. West Building: "Oceans, Rivers, and Skies: Ansel Adams, Robert Adams, and Alfred Stieglitz," black and white landscape photographs, through March 15. 4th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-737-4215, nga.gov.

National Gallery of Art, West Building: "Crosscurrents: American and European Masterpieces From the Permanent Collection," some of the Gallery's most significant paintings, through Jan. 1. "Jan Lievens: A Dutch Master Rediscovered," one of Rembrandt's contemporaries gets his moment in the spotlight, through Jan. 11. "Oceans, Rivers and Skies: Ansel Adams, Robert Adams and Alfred Stieglitz," 21 works by the landscape photographers presented in chronological order, through March 15. Permanent exhibit, collection of European and American paintings, sculpture and decorative arts from the 13th through the 19th centuries and an outdoor sculpture garden, 6th Street &

Entertainment WeekendPass

DANCE | GLAD TIDINGS



STAN BAROUH

MORE MERRIER: Making sure that an integral part of Christmakwanzukkah is not ignored, Dance Place resident company Coyaba Dance Theater performs its annual celebration of Kwanzaa at the Atlas Performing Arts Center on Saturday. Students from Dance Theatre's youth and adult African dance classes participate in this colorful celebration.

TheScene

Constitution Avenue NW; 202-737-4215, nga.gov.

National Geographic: "Odysseys and Photographs — Masters From the National Geographic Archives," through Jan. 4. "Whales | Tohora," stories, skeletons and interactive objects, through Jan. 18. 1145 17th St. NW; 202-857-7588, nationalgeographic.com/museum.

National Museum of American History: The newly light-filled space contains an array of ongoing exhibitions, including "The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag That Inspired the National Anthem," "Science in American Life," "Bon Appetit! Julia Child's Kitchen at the Smithsonian," the Declaration of Independence and many more, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, americanhistory.si.edu.

National Museum of Crime & Punishment: Permanent exhibit, various displays on the history of crime, crime-fighting and punishment in the United States, 575 7th St. NW; 202-393-1099.

National Museum of Health and Medicine: Permanent exhibit, displays about medicine, including the world's largest and most representative collection of microscopes, human bodies and skeletons, 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, Building 54; 202-782-2200, nlm.nih.gov/hmd/medtour/nmhm.html.

National Museum of the American Indian: "Fritz Scholder: Indian/Not Indian," a retrospective of the contemporary artist's paintings, bronze sculptures and lithographs, through Aug. 16. Displays about the history and culture of American Indians, 4th Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, nmai.si.edu.

National Museum of Natural History: "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," the dirt on dirt, through Jan. 3. Many ongoing and permanent displays, 10th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, mnhs.si.edu.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: "Role Models: Feminine Identity in Contemporary American Photography," through Jan. 25. "Mary Cassatt: Friends and Family," through Jan. 25. "Beyond Tradition: The Pueblo Pottery of Tammy Garcia," through Feb. 3. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000, nmwa.org.

National Portrait Gallery: "Portraiture Now: Feature Photography," through Sept. 27. "One Life: The Mask of Lincoln," through July 5. "Four Indian Kings," through Jan. 25. "Women of Our Time: 20th Century Photographs," through Feb. 1. "Ballyhoo! Posters as Portraiture," through Feb. 8. "Tokens of Affection and Regard: Photographic Jewelry and Its Makers," through June 21. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, npg.si.edu.

Newseum: A popular museum of news tracing the history of journalism, with interactive exhibitions in 14 galleries,

15 theaters and two broadcast studios. "G-Men and Journalists," ongoing. 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 888-639-7386, newseum.org.

Phillips Collection: For "Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Over the River, a Work in Progress," the artistic team plans to suspend their fabric art over the Arkansas River — check in on their preparations for this unfinished work here, through Jan. 25. 1600 21st St. NW; 202-387-2151, phillipscollection.org.

Project 4 Gallery: "Accumulation," the painterly, organic ceramics of Margaret Boozer, through Jan. 17. 1353 U St. NW; 202-232-4340, project4gallery.com.

Randall Scott Gallery: Quasi-Painting, works by some of the region's most talented and imaginative artists, including Julie Simon, Patrick McDonough and Sarah Wilmer, through Jan. 10. 1326 14th St. NW; 202-332-0806, randallscottgallery.com.

Renwick Gallery: "Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Glass," through Jan. 11. American crafts and decorative arts, ongoing. 17th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, americanart.si.edu/renwick/index.cfm.

Reyes + Davis Independent Exhibitions: "All Artists Exhibition," Work by Janis Goodman, Pepa Leon, Judy Jashinsky, Barbara Liotta and Johanna Mueller, through Dec. 30. 923 F St. NW; 202-255-5050.

Continued on E22

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WeekendPass

TheScene

Continued from E21

S. Dillon Ripley Center: "Road to Freedom," photographs of the civil rights movement, through March 9. 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-633-1000, si.edu/ripley.

Smithsonian American Art Museum: "Earth and Sky: Photographs by Barbara Bosworth," through Sun. "Georgia O'Keefe & Ansel Adams: Natural Affinities," through Jan. 4. "The Honor of Your Company Is Requested: President Lincoln's Inaugural Ball," through Jan. 18. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, americanart.si.edu. "Road to Freedom: Photographs of the Civil Rights Movement, 1956-1968," through March 9. 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-633-4751, nmaahc.si.edu.

Stanford in Washington Art Gallery: "Politics, etcetera," through Jan. 31. 2661 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-6235.

Strathmore Fine Art Gallery: "75th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature," through Jan. 3. "Nebiur Arellano: Timeless Filigree," works based on Incan carvings. "Works by Alice Hui & Jane Brashares," craftworks such as homemade papers, pots, vases and sculptures, through Jan. 3. 10701 Rockville Pike, Bethesda; 301-581-5200, strathmore.org.

Studio Gallery: "One Big, One Small," works focusing on perspectives featuring more than 30 artists, through Jan. 3. 2108 R St. NW; 202-232-8734, studiogallerydc.com.

Target Gallery: "5x5x(5): Small Works" tiny paintings, sculptures, ceramics and jewelry, through Jan. 11. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-838-4565, torpedofactory.org.

Textile Museum: "Timbuktu to Tibet: Rugs and Textiles of the Hajji Babas," explores rugs and textiles in diverse cultures, through March 8. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, textilemuseum.org.

Touchstone Gallery: "Small Works: Small Prices," artworks less than \$500, through Jan. 3. 406 7th St. NW; 202-347-2787, touchstonegallery.com.

U.S. Botanic Garden: "Windows to Wonderland," miniature trains run through models of Santa's Village and other holiday-themed locales, through Jan. 4. Permanent exhibitions of more than 4,000 plants and a tropical rain forest, ongoing. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, usbg.org.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum: "A Dangerous Lie: Protocols of the Elders of Zion," "Genocide Emergency: Darfur, Sudan," "Remember the Children: Daniel's Story," "Witness to History: Documenting the Path of American Liberators," ongoing. Permanent exhibition of artifacts, photographs and oral histories. 100 Raoul



Anna Gaskell, *untitled #6 (wonder)*, 1996, Chromogenic print, 20 x 24 in., Heather and Tony Podesta Collection

Role Models

Feminine Identity in Contemporary American Photography
October 17, 2008–January 25, 2009

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TheScene

Wallenberg Place (15th Street) SW; 202-488-0400, ushmm.org.

Washington Printmakers Gallery:

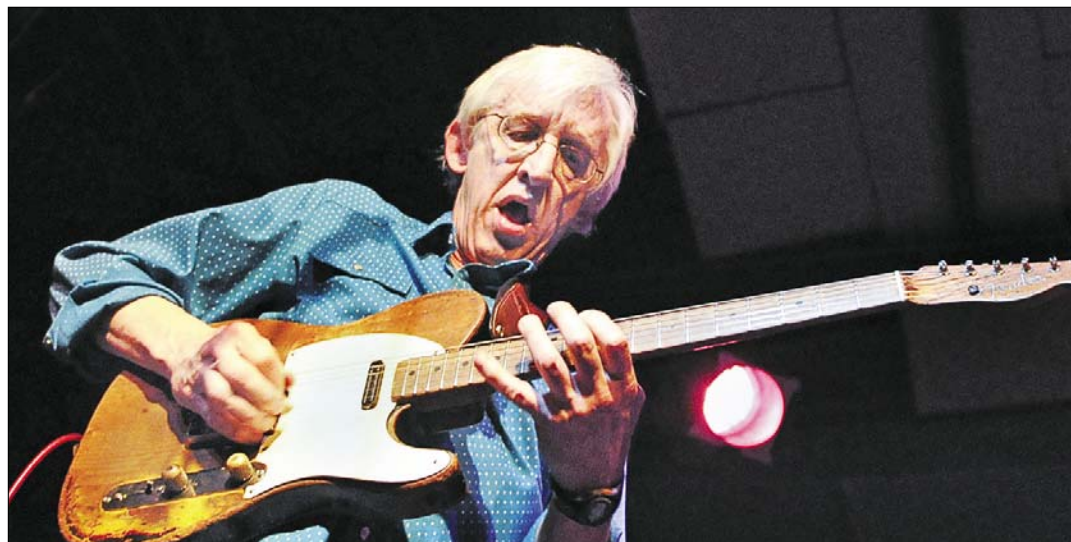
"Journey Along the Underground Railroad," recent Etchings by Joseph Holston, through Dec. 28, 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-7757.

Washington Project for the Arts:

"When Absence Becomes Presence," explores time-based art such as music, film and readings, through Dec. 23, 2023 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-234-7103, wpadc.org.

Zenith Gallery: "Zenith for Real,"

grounded but whimsical works by Drew Ernst, Robert Jackson and Donna McCullough, through Jan. 4, 413 7th St. NW; 202-783-2963, zenithgallery.com.

ROOTS-ROCK | ON FIRE

GERALD MARTINEAU/TWP

TOO MUCH IS JUST ENOUGH: Bill Kirchen calls it "dieselbilly," so we will, too. After all, who are we to argue with the Grammy-nominated guitar god of Americana roots music? Kirchen and his band, Too Much Fun, put on a rip-roaring holiday show starring 10 fingers and a Telecaster that will make aficionados cry at Jammin' Java on Friday.

Stage

Alice: Round House Theatre reinterprets Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," through Dec. 28, \$25-\$60. Round House Theatre Bethesda, 4545 East West Highway, Bethesda; 240-644-1100, roundhousetheatre.org.

Altar Boyz: The story of a Christian boy band that seriously rocks, through Jan. 3, \$25-\$70. Bethesda Theatre, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 301-657-7827, bethesdatheatre.org.

An American Century Christmas: American Century Theater presents a revue of memorable Christmas moments, through Jan. 4, \$23-\$29. Gunston Arts Center Theater II, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington; 703-998-4555.

Blackbird: Scottish playwright David Harrower's controversial and mesmerizing

Continued on E24

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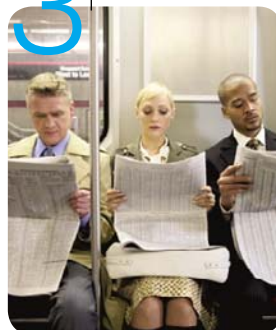
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TheScene

Continued from E23

drama about love and regret stems from an inappropriate relationship and a life-changing confrontation, through Dec. 21. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, studiotheatre.org.

SATURDAY ONLY The Bloody, Strange and Wicked Origins of St. Nicholas: A Grimm Brothers-esque take on ol' St. Nick, 7, 9 & 11 p.m., \$15. Warehouse Theater, 1021 7th St. NW; 800-494-8497, rorschachtheatre.com.

The Butterfingers Angel, Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut & the Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols in a Pear Tree: Lee Mikeska Gardner directs William Gibson's story, which manages to combine traditional music, contemporary language, children, animals, a drum-playing Herod and a cherry tree, through Jan. 4, \$15-\$30. Rep Stage, Howard Community College, Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia; 410-772-4900, repstage.org.

A Christmas Carol: Ford's Theatre's annual production moves to new spot, through Dec. 28, \$33-\$65. Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th St. NW; 202-547-1122, 877-487-8849, fords.org.

Frosty the Snowman: Frosty comes to life and makes mischief, through Jan. 4,

\$15, 12 and younger \$12. Adventure Theatre, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo; 301-320-5331, adventuretheatre.org/frosty.html.

LAST CHANCE Glengarry Glen Ross: Five real estate salesmen fight for their lives in the cutthroat world of selling in David Mamet's scathing take on greed and desperation, through Sat, \$30. Church Street Theater, 1742 Church St. NW; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com.

Grey Gardens: The cult documentary about Big and Little Edie Beale — impoverished and mentally unstable relatives of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy — becomes a musical, through Dec. 21, \$49-\$69. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, studiotheatre.org.

Gutenberg! The Musical!: Song and dance about the invention of movable type, through Jan. 4, \$25. Landless Theatre Company, 2438 18th St. NW; landlesstheatrecompany.org.

LAST CHANCE Isn't it Romantic?: Songs of love from some of our most famous songwriters including Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hart, and George and Ira Gershwin, through Sun., \$35. 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria; 703-548-9044, metrostage.org.

LAST CHANCE The Last Days of Judas Iscariot: Forum Theatre presents Mother Teresa and Sigmund Freud, among others, testifying at Judas' trial in purgatory, through Saturday. H Street

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TheScene

Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 202-396-2125.

Legally Blonde — The Musical: A singing-and-dancing adaptation of the 2001 film tells the story of Elle Woods as she goes from the sorority house to Harvard Law School, through Jan. 11, \$25-\$95. Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600, kennedy-center.org.

Les Miserables: The long-running musical hits Signature's stage in a spare but epic production by Eric Schaeffer, through Jan. 25, \$65-\$87. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-820-9771, signature-theatre.org.

LAST CHANCE The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: The In-School Players perform C.S. Lewis' tale of the never-ending war between good and evil, through Sun. Round House Theatre, 8641 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; 301-644-1100, roundhousetheatre.org.

LAST CHANCE Love, Peace and Robbery: Two ex-cons struggle to straighten out their lives in this Keegan Theatre production of this very Irish black comedy,

GALLERY | POWER UP



COURTESY EWI

COME TOGETHER: Recently named one of the top small charities in the D.C. area, Empowered Women International (EWI) showcases the works of 20 member artists at Convergence Gallery as a part of The Winter Holiday Cultural Fest. This celebration of culture and creativity runs through Jan. 19.

through Sun., \$25. Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com.

WEEKENDS ONLY Miss Nelson Is Missing! An elementary school class searches for its missing teacher after a mean substitute shows up, through Jan. 4, \$10-\$21. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-280-1660, imaginationstage.org.

Next to Normal: The musical story of a woman whose family must face her mental illness, through Jan. 18. \$61-\$66. Arena Stage Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington; 202-248-3300, arenastage.org.

The Nutcracker: The Washington Ballet presents the seasonal production with a lavish, Washington-specific theme, through Dec. 28. Warner Theatre, 513 13th St. NW; 202-783-4000, warnertheatre.com.

The Penguin Story: A puppet show adapted from an old Bulgarian children's play about a group of mischievous penguins who set out to visit Santa Claus. For ages 3 and older, through Jan. 25, \$12 in advance, \$15 at door. Classika Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 800-494-

Continued on E26

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18 THU ★

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19 FRI & 20 SAT ★ Holiday Vaudeville: Sean Grissom, the Alexandria Klezmet, and Rod Ferrone

A fun-filled evening to celebrate the holidays.

21 SUN ★

Elisabeth von Trapp

Granddaughter of Maria and Baron von Trapp continues the musical legacy.

22 MON ★ Maggie Ingram and the Ingramettes

Gospel legends captivate audiences with their big sound and rapturous dancing.

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23 TUE ★ Carol Ringers and the Peace Ringers

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PERFORMANCE BEGINS AT NOON

24 WED ★ Monumental Brass Quintet

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25 THU ★ All-Star Christmas Day Jazz Jam

Millennium Stage tradition with host and vibraphonist Chuck Redd, pianist Robert Redd, drummer Lenny Robinson, trumpeter Tom Williams, bassist James King, and vocalist Delores Williams.

26 FRI ★ Golem

Eastern European folk-punk band. ◆

ALL PERFORMERS AND PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

27 SAT ★ Billy McComiskey and Zan McLeod

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Traditional Irish music.

28 SUN ★ Vladimir Fridman

Popular instrumental Klezmer melodies, traditional Jewish songs, and original compositions. ◆

29 MON ★ DeLeon

Indie rock-infused ancient Sephardic Judaic melodies. ◆

30 TUE ★ Last Train Home

D.C. favorite delivers original holiday tunes.

31 WED ★ Sidney's Salon Orchestra of Washington

Chamber music and 19th-century Viennese waltzes. ■



E26 | EXPRESS | 12.18.2008 | THURSDAY

WeekendPass

ALT HEARTTHROB | THE MALE GAZE



MARK SELIGER

SORRY, GIRLS: Even the strong-hearted can't withstand the wistful eyes of the troubled troubadour when Rhett Miller climbs onto the stage at the Black Cat on Saturday. The Old 97's frontman may be married, but his haunting commercial-ready ballads still hold heart-breaking power.

TheScene

Continued from E25

8497, classika.org.

Peter Pan: The Musical: A high-flying adventure for kids, through Jan. 4, \$25-\$43. Olney Theatre Center for the Arts, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-3400, olneytheatre.org.

Seasonal Disorder: Holiday-themed improv, through Dec. 27, \$5-\$15. Source Theater, 1835 14th St. NW; 202-204-

7770, washingtonimprovtheatre.com.

Sholom Aleichem: Laughter Through Tears: Theodore Bikel stars in this musical featuring classic Yiddish music, through Jan. 11, \$15-\$55. Theater J, 1529 16th St. NW; 800-494-8497, washingtonjcc.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY A Spanish Christmas: The Folger Consort and special guests perform festive music from Spain's Golden Age, through Sun. Folger Theatre, 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077, folger.edu.

LAST CHANCE Tales of Doomed



FRI 19 & SAT 20 ★
ROD FERRONE



MON 22 ★ MAGGIE INGRAM AND THE INGRAMETTES



FRI 26 ★ GOLEM

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Entertainment

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TheScene

Love: A cheery tale from Spooky Action Theatre, just in time for Christmas, through Sun., \$15. Black Box Theatre at Montgomery College, East-West Highway & Chicago Avenue; 202-248-0647, spookyaction.org.

Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: The Chicago-based Neo-Futurists, back to perform 30 short, zany plays in 60 minutes, through Jan. 4. Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D St. NW; \$30; 202-393-3939, woollymammoth.net.

Twelfth Night: One of Shakespeare's most popular comedies is rife with the enduring themes of farce, including separated twins, cross-dressing and mistaken identity, through Jan. 4. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Urban Foli: The Menes Yahudah-founded ensemble performs a mix of traditional West African music, jazz, funk, hip-hop, spoken word, dance and truth, Sat. & Sun., \$22; seniors and students \$17; 12 and younger \$8. Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE; 202-269-1600, danceplace.org.

A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant: A Tom Cruise (and his friends) Christmas, through Jan. 4, \$25. Landless Theatre Company, 2438 18th St. NW; landless

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SLOW ART: The pieces on display at Transformer's "Paper Trail" exhibition don't function as with fast-food consumption. A product of Transformer's Flat File art program, the exhibition allows young and emerging artists to have a place to display their very disparate, very beautiful pieces.

theatrecompany.org.

West Side Story: The out-of-town try-out of a musical favorite, this time authenticated with the use of some Spanish language, through Jan. 17. National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-628-6161.

LAST CHANCE You Better Believe It.

They Exist: A bilingual comedic feud between two sorceresses over who will help their new neighbor build a house, through Sat, \$18. GALA Theatre-Tivoli, 3333 14th St. NW; 202-234-7174, galatheatre.org.

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Sunday, December 21

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Soulive w/ DJ Rekha Su 28

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JANUARY 1

Femi Kuti and the Positive Force F 9

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Tea Leaf Green w/ The Hackensaw Boys Sa 24

Reel Big Fish w/ Streetlight Manifesto & Tip the Van Su 25

FEBRUARY

Andrew Bird w/ Loney dear Tu 3

Little Big Town w/ Zac Brown Band *On Sale Saturday, December 20 at 10am...* W 4

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